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The Ellsworth Story

GEORGE JELINEK

George Jelinek



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all my friends who aided in furnishing data for this booklet on Ellsworth and Ellsworth County. Especially Mrs. Roy Stauffer for the use of her family scrapbook, Mrs. Fred Gebhardt, Mrs. Tom Beatty, Mrs. Linnie Thomas, Mrs. Fayette Brown, Mr. Ed Williams, Mr. W. C. Scales, Miss Mary O'Donnell, Robert Herzog, the Library staff, and the Ministers of the Ellsworth churches.

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History of the State of Kansas by A. T. Andreas
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The Ellsworth Reporter
The Ellsworth Messenger
Overland Stage to California by Root
Pioneer History of Kansas by Adolph Roenigk

GEORGE JELINEK, Member
Kansas State Historical Society.

DEDICATED to the pioneers of
Ellsworth County who braved
the dangers and hardships of
the new West to give us a home
and a heritage upon which to
build our hope for the future.

90 YEARS

Of Ellsworth and Ellsworth County History

By George Jelinek

Kansas

London - 5.00

Published in conjunction with Ellsworth's
90th Anniversary observance—August, 1957.

ELLSWORTH
KANSAS
1957

The Messenger Press

Ellsworth Laid Out As a Townsite, January 23, 1867

Ellsworth owes its existence to two factors, namely: the Texas cattle trade, and the building of the railroad. During the Civil War, countless thousands of cattle had accumulated on the ranges in Texas due to lack of markets and manpower. With the ending of the war, and the westward building of the railroad, an avenue was opened for Texas cattle to reach the eastern markets.

A rumor was circulated that a town named Ellsworth was to be "end of track"—the gateway to the great Southwest. So fast the rumor spread that in a few short weeks over 1,000 people inhabited the town—merchants, saloon keepers, gamblers, gunmen and thieves moved in, built flimsy shacks and dugouts, and plied their trade with a vicious determination to outdo the world.

The townsite was surveyed by William McGrath and Col. Greenwood. The site was selected by a town company of which H. J. Latshaw was president. It was located on the north bank of the Smoky Hill River and included all of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, a part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and a part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28, and a part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 29, Township 15, S., Range 8 W.

"The Stockade"

E. W. Kingsbury led the way by building the first house which was known as the "stockade". It was used in a double capacity of store and hotel. Other businesses included: Lockstone & Phelps, groceries and provisions; J. L. Bell, tinware and stoves; Arthur Larkin, hotel; Geiger & Co., dry goods and clothing; Robbins & Matthews, groceries and provisions; Andrew Schmitt, boots and shoes; O. Hall, groceries and provisions; Chick,

Brown & Co., forwarding and commission house; Vaughn and Sweezy, groceries and provisions; Coffin & Haikes, groceries.

In less than three months the town was well established.

Quoting A. T. Andreas: "In those days whiskey was one of the staple articles of a well regulated grocery store, and the grocer that tried to do business without it, was not troubled with many customers. At that time there was stationed at Fort Harker, distant some four miles from Ellsworth, about 1,500 soldiers and government employees, who patronized the grocery stores to a wonderful extent, most of whom consumed what they bought on the premises are carried away in liquid form. Another source of trade, and not a small one either, was derived from the long wagon trains moving westward across the plains, nearly all of which, at that time, followed the Smoky Hill route."

How Ellsworth Was Named

As to how Ellsworth was named, is recorded in history in the following letter written at Elden, Iowa, February 20, 1878 to a Mr. F. G. Adams: "Some time ago I received a letter from you asking for information concerning the history of Fort Ellsworth. You are correct as to the Adjutant's report. I was mustered in as 2nd Lt. Co. H. 7th Iowa Cal., July 13, 1863 at Davenport, Iowa. I was in service in Kansas, and I am the man who established Fort Ellsworth in June of 1864. I was stationed there with about forty men and built that blockhouse. General Curtis gave it its name in July of the same year, when he came up to the fort. He was then in command of that division. We were ordered

out on an Indian expedition. I had about 20 men, and a company of the 15th Kansas was with us. At Fort Larned, while on dress parade, General Curtis read the name of Fort Ellsworth."—Signed: Allen Ellsworth. Ellsworth, being in close proximity to the old Fort site was so named as was Ellsworth county when its boundaries were defined by the legislature in 1867. Today, a visitor can still find remnants of the blockhouse, stones lying about, and if lucky, can find bullets, horse shoes, buttons and such on the site. The embankment of the military bridge across the Smoky is still visible.

EARLY HISTORY OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY (Andreas History of Kansas)

Ellsworth County was organized in 1867. Approximately ten years prior efforts at settlement were made in Ellsworth County. The first settlement was on Thompson Creek by P. M. Thompson, after whom the creek was named; Joseph Lehman, D. Page, Adam Weadie and D. Cushman. The next settlement was made by Henry and Irwin Farris, S. D. Walker, C. L. and J. J. Prather on Clear Creek. In August, 1861, the first woman to come to Ellsworth County was the wife of T. D. Bennett, who moved his family from Dickinson county and located in the Thompson settlement.

These parties supported themselves, chiefly, by hunting, although some attempts at farming were made upon a small scale. At that time game of all kinds was abundant. Herds of buffalo roamed all over the country and organized parties from other counties would come to enjoy the sport of the hunt, and also for the profit to be derived therefrom. Swarms of wild turkeys inhabited every stream and creek, and antelope

grazed upon the hills and in the valleys in immense droves.

In the fall of 1862, a man by the name of Lewis, with his family, located in the Thompson neighborhood, and to this man and his wife was born the first white child in Ellsworth county, the birth taking place in February, 1863.

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Indian Trouble

In the summer of that year, the Indian trouble, which had been anticipated for some time, commenced, the first attack of the savages being made upon the settlers on Clear Creek. By treachery the Indians lured Walker, one of the early settlers in the Faris settlement, into a snare, and instantly killed him. The white men replied to the fire of the Indians, and instantly killed three of their number. Knowing that the Indians greatly outnumbered them, and fearing that they would renew the attack during the night, they made their escape, and succeeded in reaching the stage station on the Smoky late in the afternoon. From this point word was sent to every settler in the county, to apprise them of the approaching danger.

Pages Ranch, located on the Smoky, at a point where the military road crossed the stream, was considered the best place from which resistance could be offered in case of an attack, and there the settlers all centered. Sentinels were posted, and a sharp lookout was maintained throughout the night, but the only attack they encountered was a false alarm to the effect that hosts of Indians were coming over the hill to attack the ranch.

The settlers held a consultation, and concluded that their lives were more dear to them than the amount they had at stake, and next

morning, after packing up all their worldly goods they could take with them, took their departure, and Ellsworth County relapsed into its primitive condition where the buffalo, deer, elk and antelope could roam without the foot of a white man trespassing upon their native domain.

Second Settlement

The second settlement of the county began in 1865, when Henry Anderson took a claim and located on Clear Creek. In 1866, Rev. Levi Sternberg came to the county, having been preceded by one of his sons, Dr. George Sternberg. Shortly after the elder Sternberg came, he was followed by another son, Frederick, who took a claim, and located on the Smoky. In the spring of the following year, two more of his sons, Charles and Edward, arrived, this family making quite a settlement in itself. In 1866, Fort Ellsworth was abandoned, and a large military post was established about three-fourths of a mile northeast of where it stood. Four large frame buildings were erected for barracks for the troops, two on each side of the square, while a third side was occupied by buildings erected for officers quarters. Several large stables were erected, and a good sized guard house, two stories high. A magnificent stone building was erected for a hospital, at a cost of \$8,000.00. The military reservation, upon which this post was located embraced 16 sections of land, being four miles square. At that time, General Hancock was in command of the Division of the Mississippi, and named the post Fort Harker.

A STORY, TOLD BY CHARLES STERNBERG

At the age of 17, Charles Sternberg and his twin brother, Ed-

ward, came to Kansas, the year being 1867, to live with an older brother two and a half miles south of Fort Harker. This post was at that time the termination of the Kansas Division of the Union Pacific, and almost daily trainload after trainload of prairie schooners, drawn by oxen, burros or mules, pulled out from it over the old Butterfield and Santa Fe trails, the one leading up the Smoky Hill, the other through the valley of the Arkansas.

"In July, 1867, owing to the fear of an Indian outrage, General A. J. Smith gave us at the ranch a guard of ten colored soldiers under a colored sergeant, and all the settlers gathered in the stockade, a structure about twenty feet long and fourteen wide, built by setting a row of cottonwood logs in a trench and roofing them over with split logs, brush, and earth. During the height of the excitement, the women and children slept on one side of the building in a long bed on the floor, and the men on the other side.

"The night of the third of July was so sultry that I concluded to sleep outside on a hay-covered shed. At the first streak of dawn I was awakened by the report of a Winchester, and springing up, heard the sergeant call to his men, who were scattered in rifle pits around the building, to fall in line.

"Fire At Will!"

"As soon as he had them lined up, he ordered them to fire across the river in the direction of some cottonwoods, to which a band of Indians had retreated. The whites came forward with guns in their hands and offered to join in the fight, but the sergeant commanded: 'Let the citizens keep to the rear.' This, indeed, they were very willing to do when the order was

given, 'fire at will!' and the soldiers began sending leaden balls whizzing through the air in every conceivable arc, but never in a straight line, toward the enemy, who were supposed to be lying on the ground.

"As soon as it was light my brother and I explored the river and found a place where seven braves, in their moccasined feet, had run across a wet sandbar in the direction of the cottonwoods, as the sergeant had said. Their pony trails could be easily seen in the high wet grass.

"The party in the stockade were not reassured to hear the tramp of a large body of horsemen, especially as the soldiers had fired away all their ammunition; but the welcome clank of sabers and jingle of spurs laid their fears to rest, and soon a couple of troops of cavalry, with an officer in command, rode up through the gloom.

Wild Bill Comes to Area

"After the sergeant had been severely reprimanded for wasting his ammunition, the scout Wild Bill (Hickok) was ordered to explore the country for Indian signs. But, although the tracks could not have been plainer, his report was so reassuring that the whole command returned to the Fort.

"Some hours later I spied this famous scout at the settler's store, his chair tilted back against the stone wall, his two ivory-mounted revolvers hanging at his belt, the target of all eyes among the garrison loafers. As I came up this gallant called out 'well, Sternberg, your boys were pretty well frightened this morning by some buffalo that came down to water.' 'Buffalo!' I said; 'that trail was made by our old cows two weeks ago.'

This story has been used by anti-Hickok writers to disprove

his character and ability. Sternberg later found out from the general in command that they had prepared for a big "hop" at the Fort on the night of the Fourth, and that Wild Bill did not report the Indian tracks because he did not want to be sent off on a long scout just then.

"As a boy of seventeen, it was my duty on the ranch to haul milk, butter, eggs, and vegetables to Fort Harker for sale. I cared for my pony myself, and in order to get the milk and other food to the Fort in time for the soldiers' five-o'clock breakfast, I had to go without my own. One day I had a number of bills to collect from the officers, but as I was unusually tired, and the officers were not out of bed when I called, I put the bills in my inside pocket and started home.

Life Wasn't Easy

"As was my custom, after leaving the garrison, I lay down on the wagon seat and went to sleep, letting my faithful horse carry me home of his own accord. I have no recollection of what happened afterwards, but when I reached the ranch my brother found me sitting up in the wagon, moaning and swinging my arms, with the blood flowing from a slung-shot wound in my forehead. I had been struck down in my sleep and robbed of all the money I had on my person, as it happened only about five dollars.

"Providentially our nearest neighbor, D. B. Long, was a retired hospital steward, and the post surgeon, Dr. B. F. Fryer, who was sent for immediately, was just ready to drive to town with his team of fleet black ponies. He reached the ranch in an incredibly short time, and although respiration had ceased, those two faithful men kept up artificial res-

piration for hours. My oldest brother, Dr. Sternberg, for years Surgeon-General of the Army, was also sent for, and I found him lying on a mattress by my side when I regained consciousness two weeks later."

At the age of 17, Charles Sternberg decided to become a fossil hunter and through his discoveries in Central and Western Kansas became a world famous paleontologist.

CONTRIBUTION BY

D. B. LONG

(Pioneer History of Kansas
by Roenigk)

"On the 20th of August, 1866, I was ordered to report to the Post Surgeon at Fort Wallace, for duty. At that time I was stationed at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis as hospital Steward: I had my wife and two small children with me, and apprehensive for their safety, disliked the transfer very much. The Indians were on the warpath at the time and it was indeed a dangerous undertaking to cross the plains at the mercy of those inhuman savages.

"We took the Missouri Pacific at Fort Leavenworth and secured transportation to Fort Riley. At that time the Union Pacific was finished only to Wamego. At that point we took the overland stage to Fort Riley. We took a wagon train to Fort Ellsworth. We had a large wagon with six mules and my small family, and the mess chest and a few blankets, was what it contained. We made about fifteen miles a day on our trip from Fort Riley to Fort Ellsworth, and had ample opportunity to observe the country through which we were passing. After a lapse of so many years, one can look back and pause in amazement at the vast change in this country

since 1866. Salina at that time consisted of about six or eight houses, or rather, log huts. Abilene was no larger. I noticed a large number of prairie dog villages where the town now stands. There were no bridges to cross the streams, no fine farm houses or farms—all the vast prairie flowing beneath the azure skies and genial sun, awaiting the plowman's coming.

"We reached Fort Ellsworth, near the Smoky Hill river. September 4th where we were met by Dr. George M. Sternberg, with whom I had served at the close of the war. He was very much interested in the country, had faith in its future, and advised me to locate a claim, so we went down below the Reservation on the river and made selection of nice bottom land and sent in our filings to the land office at Junction City.

"We went on to Fort Wallace where my enlistment expired March 17, 1868, when I returned to Ellsworth county and located on my claim where I began civil life as a stockman and dairyman.

"Ellsworth was a wild frontier town containing many saloons, dance halls and gambling rooms. Many died with their boots on. The big cottonwood tree by the bridge on the Smoky River was often decorated with the lifeless body of a man whose demise the vigilance committee thought desirable for the betterment of social conditions.

"At this time the country was in as much danger from horse thieves, cut throats and murderers as from Indians. Everybody went armed as a measure of safety. I had six horses stolen at one time and 75 head of cattle were driven off during a storm and were a complete loss to me. It required nerve to live on the frontier in the

sixties, and yet the oldtimers were big hearted and hospitable. No one was ever turned away unrelieved from their doors, and to often payment was almost an insult. Indian raids, buffalo hunts, hangings and country dances kept up the wholesome excitement and prevented stagnation of the community; everybody was poor and happy. When the grasshoppers came in 1874 and ate up everything, leaving the entire country destitute, many people who are now well off received aid, and some lived better that year than ever before or since.

"The first Fourth of July celebration held in Ellsworth county was in a little grove below Kanopolis on the Smoky Hill River where the Missouri Pacific railroad crosses the stream. The farm was owned at that time by the Rev. L. Sternberg."

CAUSE OF INDIAN TROUBLE

1864- 1870

The history of Ellsworth County and Ellsworth is filled with many stories about Indian troubles, the great fear held by the settlers, and the many atrocities committed by the savages, yet little is said in defense of the "Indian" regarding his fight for his very existence. All accounts at that time by the military were recorded in favor of the white man because it was their duty to suppress the savage on the warpath.

The time of the discovery of precious metals in Colorado, and the consequent crowding of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes toward the valleys of the Republican and Smoky Hill rivers, may be considered the commencement of a series of aggressions and counter-aggressions between the Indians and the miners and military of Colorado, which eventuated in April

1864, in a cruel war kept up for many months by the Indians upon frontier settlers in Kansas, upon travelers, ranchmen and trainmen, culminating in November of the same year, in a wholesale slaughter of a band of Indians, mostly friendly, who were encamped on Sand Creek near Fort Lyon, on their own reservation, to which they had been ordered as a place of safety. The camp was surrounded on the morning of the 29th of November 1864, by a force of Colorado Militia, and men, women and children were indiscriminately slaughtered. From that time there was no safety on the frontier of Kansas, until the Indians were thoroughly subdued.

During 1865 and 1866, wandering bands of hostile Indians—partly Pawnees and Omahas—entered Kansas at various times and committed depredations on the frontier. During the summer of 1866, the settlements were attacked—several settlers being killed while at work on their claims, and much property destroyed. The outrages committed were in some cases most inhuman, and the settlers being few in number, poorly armed, and totally unprotected by any established troops, were in constant terror of Indian incursions with all the attendant horrors.

In the summer of 1866, General Hancock assumed command of the Department and ordered troops from Fort Ellsworth to the Solomon. A company of State militia was also sent to the frontier, and until the spring of 1867, the settlers enjoyed comparative quiet and safety.

In April, 1867, Gen. Hancock, who had taken the field in person, totally destroyed an Indian village of 300 lodges on Pawnee Fork. Open war upon settlers,

trains, emigrants and property ensued. The Indians were determined upon revenge and murders and robberies were committed all along the border. The whole frontier was assailed. Through the Republican, Solomon and Smoky Hill valleys the settlers were constantly exposed to Indian raids of the most shocking character. The overland routes between Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico were almost entirely abandoned and the line of frontier settlements was pushed back many miles. The troubles culminated in June, in a simultaneous attack by the Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Kiowas upon the engineering parties on the Kansas Pacific Railroad west of Fort Harker. It was seen that the continuation of this road, together with the other routes of travel over the plains would have to be abandoned unless prompt action was taken by the State. A proclamation was issued by Gov. Crawford July 1, 1867, forming eight companies of cavalry to be sent to Fort Harker.

A number of forts were authorized by the government throughout Kansas for the protection of the settlers and the construction of the railroad. In a latter issue a complete record of these forts will be given.

WHY THE BUFFALO WAS EXTERMINATED

In order to subdue the savage, General Sheridan contended that the buffalo furnished everything required for the existence of the Indian and advocated destroying them as a means of getting rid of the peril of the savages. The idea soon became popular and with such license, the wanton destruction of the millions of animals that roamed the plains was in a very few years accomplished. It was at

first not unusual for trains to stand for hours waiting for herds to cross the tracks. The railroad cut the buffalo into two large herds—the northern and the southern. The railroad also made the hunting grounds more accessible to the hired butcher and offered greater facility in the traders' handling of the skins. The laborers laying the track for the new railroad were constantly interfered with by the herds of buffalo.

Quoting Col. Henry Inman : "An idea may be formed of how many buffalo were killed from 1868 to 1881, a period of only thirteen years, during which time they were indiscriminately slaughtered for their hides. In Kansas alone there was paid out, between the dates specified, two million five hundred thousand dollars for their bones gathered on the prairies, to be utilized by the various carbon works of the country, principally St. Louis. It required about 100 carcasses to make a ton of bones, the price paid averaging eight dollars a ton; so the above quoted sum represented the skeletons of over thirty-one million buffalo. These figures may appear preposterous to readers not familiar with the great plains, but to those who have seen the prairies black from horizon to horizon with the shaggy monsters, they are not so. In the autumn of 1868, I rode with General Sheridan, Custer, Sully and others, for three consecutive days, through one continuous herd. In the spring of 1869 the train on the Kansas Pacific railroad was delayed at a point between Fort Harker and Hays, from nine o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon, in consequence of the passage of an immense herd of buffalo across the track."

In the commercialized killing, the butchers were supplied with special outfits. A party consisted of one shooter, two skinners, and one man to cook, stretch hides, and take care of camp. After one of these expeditions, the plains for miles around were covered with mutilated, putrifying buffalo carcasses. In a season or so, the white bleached bones and skulls, so typical of the latter days of the great plains, were to be seen in immense quantities. Because of the wantonness of the slayers, it has been estimated that there were three to five guffalo killed to every hide marketed. A hide torn by careless, rough handling, was discarded. And millions of pounds of rich, juicy meat—enough to have fed well all the poor of the nation—was wasted.

The terrible "still hunt" was usually used. A herd sighted, the hunter secreted himself and fired, killing the leader. The herd, confused and puzzled and lacking its accustomed general, stood still. Then it was an easy matter for the gunner, picking his animals and always killing those that would start to run, to soon exterminate a large band. Many a hunter killed in a season fifteen hundred to two thousand animals.

At first the utmost wastefulness prevailed. Everyone wanted to kill and no one was willing to do the skinning and curing. Thousands upon thousands of buffaloes were killed for their tongues alone, and never skinned. Thousands more were wounded by unskilled marksmen and wandered off to die and become a total loss.

Skins were stretched, baled, and shipped like cordwood. Of the qualities of hides, one of the rarest was the "Beaver-robe" a soft fur resembling the animal it was named for. These sold for \$75.00

apiece. The rarest skin was the "buckskin"—a freak of nature. It was a dirty white in color, and because of its rarity, rather than its beauty, sold for two thousand dollars. The ordinary hide sold for about three and a half dollars.

By the end of 1875, the great southern herd was practically extinct. 1883 saw the last of the northern herd.

And so with the advance of the white man we have witnessed the passing of the Indian and the buffalo, and the assimilation of the Great Plains—yet they are fixed features in the romance of the early days. Passing time can ever hide them, and so for all coming ages they are linked to the future to be enjoyed and re-lived.

Continuing From Andreas' History of Kansas

There are few towns that had such rapid growth for the first few months of their existence as had Ellsworth. The plat of the town, and certificate was filed for record in Saline County, to which Ellsworth County was then attached for judicial and municipal purposes, on the 8th day of May, 1867.

First Smoky Hill River Flood

The Smoky Hill, in Ellsworth County, is dignified by being styled a river, but in dry seasons the stranger will look for it in vain. He will see a small stream of water resembling a brooklet, over which a child might step without wetting its foot, but when it does assume the dignity of a river, it does it in grand style. On the 8th of June, 1867, it suddenly arose to this dignity, and in a short time the flourishing town of Ellsworth was standing in about four feet of water. Many of the buildings were washed from the foundations, and all kinds of business was brought to a sudden stop. To make the

condition of the people still more critical, the Indians, about that time, began to hunger for scalps and plunder, and scarcely had the water subsided, when a band of Cheyennes began to commit depredations, they killed one man about three miles west of town, and about two weeks later, they killed three men between Ellsworth and Wilson. The citizens formed themselves into reliefs and guarded the town, and one night the Indians came within a quarter of a mile of town and ran off quite a lot of stock.

Cholera Rages

The flood and the Indians were bad enough, but a still greater calamity awaited them. About the first of July, 1867, the cholera broke out simultaneously at Ellsworth and Fort Harker, and made terrible ravages at both places. People fled from the dread plague, as tho' death was about to seize them. During the two or three weeks the scourge raged, it carried off about three hundred people at the Fort, and about 50 of the citizens of Ellsworth. Out of a population of nearly 1000, only about forty remained, all the rest having fled.

The town company, having been brought to a knowledge of their mistake in locating the town on low ground close to the river, immediately set to work and had Mr. Marian survey and plat a portion of the south half of Section 20, town 15, south Range 8 W., which was placed on record July 18, 1867 as the Town Company's first addition. It is on the land embraced in this addition, and subsequent additions made at various times by King, Briscoe, Hodgden and Butler, that the present town of Ellsworth now stands. When the addition of the town company was surveyed and

platted, lots corresponding with those in the original site were given in exchange to those who had purchased, and all the buildings were moved up to the new site, except that known as the "Stockade", which subsequently was burned down.

The Railroad Goes West

In a short time the town was again on the high road to prosperity. In 1868, however, the railroad pushed westward, and a great many of the merchants of Ellsworth pushed westward with it. In that year, also, the Indians again threatened the place and ran off a quantity of stock, almost from the limits of town. On that raid they killed a man named Daugherty, so that, what with the flood, cholera and Indians, the first year in the history of Ellsworth was a very trying one. As if these were not enough to contend against, right upon their heels came a set of roughs and cut-throats who undertook to run the town, and who, by their desperado deeds, sought to rule the people by establishing a "reign of terror". Two desperate characters, by the name of Craig and Johnson, were the recognized leaders of this gang, and, like all such scoundrels, undertook to govern with a high hand. Finally the citizens determined to rid the town of this gang of bandits, and, to accomplish this, a number of them organized themselves into a vigilante committee. They concluded that the speediest way to disperse the cutthroats was to strike at the head, and one night Craig and Johnson, after committing some of their depredations, were seized, carried to the Smoky, and there hung to the limb of a cottonwood tree. The others of the gang took the hint and fled themselves to other regions, and Ellsworth be-

came a peaceable town.

The Craig-Johnson incident is referred to in a letter from Daniel Geary to George W. Martin, Sec. of the Kansas State Historical Society August 15, 1907, as follows: "What I have written thus far pertains to my observations in Missouri, but I will now relate an adventure I had in the then short-grass region of Kansas. I had occasion to go to Ellsworth, then the end of the Kansas Pacific railroad, arriving there in the afternoon. After transacting my business I strolled about to see the sights. The village, except some of the best business houses, consisted of tents, and every other tent was a saloon, regardless of where the count began. As I was passing a row of these wet-goods emporiums, I was unfortunate enough to run against one George Craig, formerly a resident of Kansas City, with whom I had had a personal difficulty just before his departure. He was keeping a saloon and I had no desire to meet him, but there was no escape from the situation so I put on a bold front and shook hands with him. He seemed glad to see me and we had a pleasant talk about Kansas City affairs, and no allusion was made to the past difficulty. Later, about dusk, while walking along the street which fronts the railway, I saw Craig and two companions walking rapidly toward me, and all drunk. Believing this meant trouble, I doubled my speed to avoid them, but they were determined to overtake me, and I was determined they should not. I darted into a mattress store owned by one Clancy, passed out the back way, and made rapid strides around the block to the railroad train, and entered one of the cars, and remained there until the train started for Kansas City, keeping

a clean lookout for Craig and his associates. I eluded them by passing through the mattress store. They entered the store but could trace me no farther. My strategy saved me. About two hours after the train left a telegram came to the conductor saying that Craig and his two companions, after they had shot up the town, had been hanged by a vigilance committee, and the news was true.

When I arrived in Kansas City, Craig's father, a most estimable citizen, having learned that I had just returned from Ellsworth, came to see me about his son. In great anguish of mind, and with tears in his eyes, he constantly exclaimed, "My poor, innocent George; my poor innocent boy!" I assuaged his grief as best I could.

Ellsworth was a typical border town in those days, well calculated to inspire visitors with feelings of awe. I saw Wild Bill (Hickok) meandering about the streets of the town in his shirt sleeves with a brace of six-shooters buckled to his belt. His personal appearance went far to justify his reputation as a handy man with a gun.

EARLY DAY FORTS IN THE REGION

Many references will be made in succeeding articles, to the forts that were established on the Kansas Plains, and a summary description is given here that the reader may have a vivid picture of the events that took place, and their association with locale.

Several forts were authorized by the government in the sixties, for the protection of the settlers, travelers and railroad construction workers against the destructive raids by the Indians.

To protect the Santa Fe trail traffic and settlers, Fort Zarah, Fort Larned and Fort Dodge were

established. Fort Ellsworth (later Fort Harker, Fort Hays, and Fort Wallace were established to protect the construction crews of the Kansas Pacific railroad, and also the settlers that dared the dangers of the frontier. Following is a summary of each fort.

Fort Ellsworth

Fort Ellsworth was established in August 1864. The original site of the fort was on the north bank of the Smoky Hill River, at the crossing of the old Santa Fe road. It was a typical frontier post. The most imposing building there at this time was the commissary building, a sod house about 25 by 40 feet in size, overlooking the river. The barracks and officers quarters consisted of dugouts in the bank along the river front. No stockade of any sort surrounded the fort. It was the first and only settlement between Salina and Fort Zarah on the Arkansas river and was about a one-company post.

On November 11, 1866, the name was changed to Fort Harker and the following January the fort was removed to a new site about three quarters of a mile northeast of the old one. Fort Harker was the distributing point for all military posts further west, and was one of the most important military stations west of the Missouri river. Many famous military men, such as Generals Hanrock, Sherman, Sheridan, Custer, Sully and Miles were connected with the fort, as were famous scouts such as Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickok.

The advent and extension of the Kansas Pacific railroad put an end to its usefulness, and in the fall of 1873 it was abandoned and the reservation on which it stood was thrown open to settlement. The roofs of some of the buildings

were sold in the spring of 1882 to a man named Johnson. The officers' quarters and the guard house still stand to mark the site of the once famous post of Fort Harker.

Fort Hays

Fort Hays was established October 11, 1865 and was known as Fort Fletcher. On November 11, 1866, the name was changed to Fort Hays. The fort was first located on Big Creek about fourteen miles southeast of the present Hays City, but a flood in the spring of 1867 utterly destroyed the post, whereupon it was reestablished on a site about a mile west of Hays. Fort Hays was abandoned as a military station in 1889.

Fort Wallace

Fort Wallace, first called Camp Pond Creek, was established in September, 1865. The name was changed to Fort Wallace, April 16, 1866. It was located at the junction of Pond Creek with the south fork of the Smoky Hill river, two miles southeast of Wallace. It was built for a four-company post, and could accommodate five hundred men, but the garrison was usually very low, because troops stationed there were kept moving as escorts for the railway surveyors, builders, stage coaches and express wagons. The post was abandoned May 31, 1882.

Fort Dodge

Fort Dodge was established in 1864 on the north bank of the Arkansas river, about two miles east of the present Dodge City. The fort was considered the most important of all the forts on the Santa Fe trail and quartered more soldiers than any other post on the plains. It was in the heart of Indian country and with Fort Larned and Fort Zarah, gave protection to travelers along the Santa Fe trail. The commissary and

82
quartermasters' building was of sod as were all the soldiers' quarters, these being located on the ledge of the north bank of the military post in 1882.

Arkansas. It was abandoned as a
Fort Zarah

Fort Zarah was established September 6, 1864. It was located on the left (east) bank of Walnut creek, about one-half mile from its confluence with the Arkansas river. The fort was of sandstone taken from the bluffs about three miles distant. It was 116 feet long and about 50 feet wide, a good portion being two stories in height. The fort was abandoned in December 1869, and a few years later all the stone in the buildings had been confiscated by early settlers in that neighborhood.

Fort Larned

Fort Larned was established October 22, 1859 and located on the south bank of Pawnee Fork, about eight miles from its confluence with the Arkansas River—known then as "Camp on the Pawnee Fork." The name was changed to Camp Alert, February 1, 1860, and to Fort Larned in June of the same year. It was one of the largest posts on the Santa Fe Trail, quartering at least two companies of soldiers. It was of adobe construction, but some of the buildings were replaced by sandstone structures in 1867. It was abandoned in 1868.

How the Garrisons Lived

It may be of interest to the reader to know something of the routine life at a military post on the plains. No matter how small the garrison, certain military ceremonies and social formalities were observed. The flag was unfurled high over the parade ground at sunrise and lowered at sunset, with the booming of the gun and

notes of the bugle. The Sunday evening "retreat" was preceded by a concert by the headquarters band, greatly enjoyed by the civilians. Musicales and theatricals by the post talent, were sponsored by the officers and their wives. The monotony of post life was varied by social amenities during visits of noted generals, and the occasional hop. Officers and wives made formal evening calls, when interest abated in the poker game. The army canteen existed long after the civilian's saloon was closed, and over-indulgence there was the cause of the dismissal of many an officer from the service.

Officers' quarters were strictly assigned by rank, and being "outranked from her home" was the bane of an officer's wife. Lack of schools resulted in the employment of governesses for the children. The menage of the household was seldom disturbed by the servant girl question, for there was always a soldier willing to act as a "striker"—not for tents, but for the work of a house man. The life of an officers' wife was a hard one, but there was no outpost however dangerous or devoid of comforts, where she was not willing to follow her husband and endure it.

AS I REMEMBER OLD FORT HARKER

By Mrs. Henry Inman

Ellsworth, Kansas

Written for the "Club Member"
of February, 1908.

The anniversary of the birthday of Kansas is so very near that it suggests my giving the W.K.D. Club a reminiscence that I pledged Mrs. McFarland so long since.

When with you on January 29, 1907, I was ill, really not able to

be one of your number, so hastened home to care for myself and trust I am not too late in the fulfillment of my promise.

It necessarily takes me back in 1856 and my home, Portland, Maine, and where a series of entertainments was given by the influential ladies of the city for the benefit of the so-called "Kansas Sufferers".

Each night for a week I represented one or more characters in tableau as a part allotted to me. The affair proved a financial success. The money was forwarded and made good use of, but had I then known how my future was to be identified with Kansas and her people how much keener my interest would have been. However, the Civil War came on not so very long after this. I married, and at its close Col. Inman was ordered west. This was in 1867. And in January 1868, I left my home for Fort Harker, Kansas.

Travel Was Difficult

In that day the facilities for traveling were not accompanied with the comforts of the present time, but all went fairly well until we reached East St. Louis. There was no bridge then over the Mississippi River, and at midnight I walked over the ice to a boat which took us to S. Louis proper.

From there we journeyed on to Salina, Kansas, where our train was awaiting to bear us on to Fort Harker, then the terminus of the Union Pacific railroad.

It was snowing slightly, but the storm increased, and although Secretary Coburn denounces the word "blizzard" with apologies to him, I can substitute no other to express the conditions of the storm we rode into.

I had seen picturesque ones in

New England, but never where the snow seemed to come from every direction, up as well as down; and when seventeen miles west of Salina we became snowbound. The drifts proved too much for our faithful engineer and his engine. So we were left on the open prairie to the mercies of the elements, with complete time for reflection, and one entire side of our train buried in snow. One passenger car was all we boasted, and I often recall the personal of that one. Railroad employees, land-seekers, namely "squatters" as they were then called—furloughed soldiers returning to their respective posts and I the only woman among them, with a child two years old. I often wish I had registered the name of every man for each one seemed in sympathy with me and made every effort that the situation afforded to do some one little service for our comfort. Yet in a small way I made a slight return and this is how it came about.

Aid From Fort Harker

The commanding officer at Fort Harker (for the storm had reached there) anticipated the situation, knowing that I was on the train and dispatched to Salina if possible to get word to me to this effect. I was to use, with discretion, anything for my comfort and others with me that I might find in a freight car attached to our train, consigned to the commissary at the Fort. We were here thirty-six hours, and from the first the outlook had been so discouraging that a much less suggestion toward relief would have made us quite as happy, so I commenced housekeeping at once. "Uncle Sam" provided bacon and crackers and the tin wash-basin, which had already served the purpose for which it was origi-

nally intended, was washed in snow water, which was entrusted to no one by myself, the bacon fried in it (and I have never eaten any that tasted better) and our dessert was a little surprise from me.

New England Mince Pie

I had brought with me several mince-pies (New England ones) carefully packed in my trunk that when my first meal was served in my new home, some one familiar dish would be in evidence. After counting noses, I cut the pies so each might have his share, being careful to keep a reserve in case another night of anxiety awaited us—and we soon had occasion to make use of this. What we thought an immense drift near the car proved to be a tent. And, as the conductor had been regaling me with stories of the border and Indian massacres, one of which had taken place near where we were only a short time previous to this, my anxiety lest I should meet a similar fate of those who had fallen victims was far above normal, when to my relief two railroad laborers, with their horses, broke through the snow, manifesting surprise and delight on finding a refuge so near at hand. One of the horses died but the men seemed in fair condition. As is usual in Kansas our latch-string was out, the fire resuscitated, reserve brought forth, and two more made comfortable.

Late that afternoon our conductor came with the cheerful intelligence that smoke could be seen in the distance which meant our troubles were nearing an end. A platform car with twenty men provided with shovels, literally shoveled us out, took us back to Salina, and Mother Bickerdyke, who had her home near the sta-

tion, cared for me until I could go on, which was in two or three days. This time we stopped at Brookville, fifteen miles east of Fort Harker, where I was met by friends from the Fort with an ambulance drawn by six mules, and as many soldiers as escorts, for we were now in hostile country. But we reached the Fort without further trouble. This was the memorable winter of 1868. And I was surprised on my arrival to find Colonel Inman already in the field with General Custer and the famous Seventh Cavalry with General Sheridan in command.

The serious side of frontier life now presented itself to me. The return of our officers and men, although victorious, was not without its dark and appalling history, as many lives were sacrificed.

Pioneers were struggling at this time to make homes for themselves and children, continually fighting against the odds, as day after day, they were driven into the Fort for protection against some strolling band of Indians who were ever seeking revenge, yet always with the courage to return to the claim and begin anew the life they had so zealously taken up.

The children and grandchildren of one family I have in mind are still here living on the same place to rehearse the past and give evidence of all the father and mothered passed through and endured. In their daily routine of life they had ever to be watchful of the treacherous Indian, and the first death in the family was that of an infant and the mother lay in bed with no other alternative but to listen to the driving of each nail that was put into that home-made casket by the father. Chance

threw me into no greater or nobler display of heroism and endurance of the earliest settlers than came to that same little woman, who very recently died, having laid down the burden of her years and entered into the "Peace of God that passeth all understanding."

In all his boasted glory I have seen the Indian prepared and painted for war; the war-dance at midnight, when from their fires the entire country seemed ablaze; have watched them brought in captives after rescuing a girl of fourteen, whose father, mother and only brother had shed their life's blood in the effort to protect the little family. The child was cared for and finally sent to St. Mary's Mission.

Lone Wolf Pays Respects

"Lone Wolf," a Kiowa chief, who quite recently visited Washington, D. C., in behalf of his interests, is still living. He visited the Fort in 1868 or 1869 to hold conference with Government officials, and presumably to smoke the "peace pipe." He had with him 150 squaws, papooses and young warriors, who sat about on the ground the entire day in sullen silence and afforded us the one opportunity in our lives to observe their characteristics and study faces; but truth to say I discovered no Minne-ha-ha, as mortalized by Longfellow.

From curiosity alone, I invited "Lone Wolf" to dine with me and my family, who, accepting, through his interpreter, he seemed eager to do. I laid aside all conventionality, however, and instead of placing him on my right, gave him an entire end of the table. His one idea seemed to be to imitate, and so soon substituted his fork for his knife while his

manners improved as the meal went on.

After this we took him to our living-room where the piano interested him immensely. He had never seen one before, and both the mechanism and music held him spellbound. The familiar saying, "music hath charms to soothe the savage beast" became verified in his case, for a time at least, for while listening his weather-beaten face was pitiful to see. He was really affected, and I felt sorry for him. But my sympathies took flight when he tried to enter into a business contract with Colonel Inman and offered him no end of ponies, buffalo hides and other of his possessions for his "white squaw" but clung tenaciously to a tomahawk with which he professed to have killed many warriors. My frontier life was confined mostly to Fort Harker and the surrounding country. History records the past and present, and I consider it a privilege to have been here in the early days. I can now understand what it means to settle in a new country.

Remains of the "dugout" can yet be seen, but beautiful farms and ranches bear evidence of toil and thrift with prosperity in evidence all about us, while the cattle on a thousand hills have supplanted herds of bullalo that roamed about the Fort in thousands, and pity 'tis have become extinct, or nearly so.

It is due the W. K. D. Club that in this slight and imperfect way I have refreshed my memory, and given you a few facts. Although a not very satisfactory worker for you, my sincerest wishes and thoughts are with you. I am a loyal Kansan, but perhaps not as enthusiastic as my husband, who often remarked "that after

returning to the State from a journey elsewhere, he felt like getting down and kissing the soil.' Now I lived here in the days of successive blowing of the south wind and it seemed to me that the soil had such affinity for me, as a good deal of it met me more than half way. But I applaud his loyalty just the same.

My home is in Ellsworth, near old Fort Harker, a historic spot surely, and geographical center of the United States.

MORE ABOUT ELLSWORTH

The railroad reached Ellsworth July 17, 1867, and on that date the post office was established and the railroad company built the first depot on the south side of the tracks and north of what is now the Tucker Hotel. The first hotel was built in the fall by Arthur Larkin on north Main street and near Lincoln avenue. Two streets, North Main and South Main consisted of three blocks of buildings facing the tracks.

On July 20th, a bridge company was organized with \$30,000 capital for the purpose of building a bridge across the Smoky. This bridge was built just above the old crossing where bull trains crossed the river to go south to Fort Zarah. Loads of rock had been hauled in to form a footing for the oxen and wagons and the rocks are still much in evidence below the present bridge.

First Business Houses

The location of buildings, commencing at the west end of South Main included the Drovers Cottage, which had been moved from Abilene to Ellsworth in sections. It was a three-story hotel of 80 rooms and was operated by J. W. and Louisa Gore and M. B. George. This location was a block west of

Douglas and directly south of the present Farmers Elevator. Continuing east were Jake New's saloon, John Kelley's American House, Nick Lentz's saloon, Jerome Beebe's merchandise, Joseph Brennan's saloon, Whitney and Kendall's furniture. On the north side, going east from Douglas, was the Seitz Drug Store, a livery stable, postoffice, a gambling place and Arthur Larkin's dry goods and clothing store. Next, on Lincoln ave., was the Grand Central Hotel. Many noted characters of the Old West stayed there while in Ellsworth—Buffalo Bill, who was a close friend of the Larkins', Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Ben and Billy Thompson, and many others.

East of the Grand Central was the Ellsworth Reporter office. The first jail was a small building on the site of the present O'Donnell Hardware Co., and the first church, the Episcopal Church, was built on the present site of the F. & M. Drug Store, and built by the pastor himself. The courthouse and new jail were located two blocks east of Douglas between Main and First Streets. The jail still stands. The stock yards, built by the railroad were the largest in the state, and located in the west part of town.

Nauchville, the rough part of town, was located a half mile east of town on the river bottom. Most of the evil afflicting the town had its start here—a conglomeration of brothels, saloons and gambling joints. A race track featured horse-racing and the rough element had a high old time with plenty of wine, women and song.

FIRST ELLSWORTH ELECTION

The first effort at organization took place as a governing body

shortly after the county lines had been defined by the legislature and Governor Crawford appointed J. H. Edwards, V. B. Osborn and Ira Clark to be commissioners, E. W. Kingsbury to be sheriff, and M. O. Hall, clerk. The Commissioners met for the first time July 9, 1867 and their first act was to order an election to be held Aug. 10, 1867, those elected to serve until the next general election. It may be of interest to list the first duly elected officers of Ellsworth County. Commissioners elected were: V. B. Osborn, W. J. Ewing, and J. K. Blake; Sheriff, E. W. Kingsbury; Clerk, M. O. Hall; Probate Judge, J. C. Hill; Register of Deeds, Thomas Delacour; Treasurer, M. Newton; County Attorney, J. H. Runkle; Supt. of Public Instruction, C. C. Duncan; Surveyor, J. C. Ayers Coroner, M. Joyce and Assessor, J. E. New.

Sheriff Kingsley Moves In

Sheriff Kingsbury took his job seriously and tried to keep order in the town. A humorous incident is told by Col. Hadley : "Word went around that Old Bill Smith of the New York House was drinking his own whiskey. Men became alert. At 10:00 a.m. Smith stood in his door and began shooting at men on the street. The street soon was empty. Sheriff Kingsbury went over to the New York House and said, 'Bill stop your damn fooling before you kill somebody!' 'All right Cap' grinned Smith, but he kept on drinking. By noon he was a dangerous madman. 'One sip' it was said 'of Ellsworth whiskey would make a man burn his wife's dress.' At one o'clock, Smith left the back of his place on horseback, and the timid ran for cover. The sheriff, with revolver in hand, tried to intercept him. Smith, who had been a cav-

alryman for thirty-five years, although sixty-five years of age, rode around the sheriff with a pistol in each hand guiding his horse with his knees. Kingsbury, also with a revolver in each hand, ignored the shots directed at him.

Now Smith left him and raced through town firing at everybody he could see. Guns empty, he came back sitting his horse straight like a veteran dragoon. At some point ,unseen by Kingsbury, he exchanged an empty pistol for a full one. The sheriff tried to stop him. Smith warned him back. Kingsbury thought the gun empty and came on. Smith began to shoot at Kingsbury's feet and legs. It was an absurd duel with Kingsbury shooting over Smith's head, and the latter shooting at the Sheriff's feet at a distance so close, the smoke from the guns met and mingled in friendly fashion. Spectators howled with delight. Kingsbury was hit in the foot, and the shot broke the metatarsal bones. His boot soon filled with blood, but he rushed Smith and pulled him from his horse. His patience and coolness saved the lives of both.

Ellsworth Incorporated

Ellsworth was incorporated as a village in 1868. The town had no spasmodic growth, after its first year of existence, but grew slowly and steadily, those who came, coming with the intention to stay.

In the fall of 1869 the town was visited by quite an extensive fire which originated in Larkin's hotel and before it could be extinguished, the whole block of buildings burned and some in the block west. This was the block that now has the White House Hotel and hatchery. The Grand Central (now the White House) was built by Arthur Larkin in 1872, replacing

he one that had burned but a couple of lots west. It had a frontage of 48 feet on North Main, and 90 feet on Lincoln Ave. It was the grandest improvement in the city up to that time.

PETE ROBIDOUX COMES TO ELLSWORTH

In a letter by Peter Robidoux, a true pioneer of western Kansas, to W. F. Thompson of Topeka, an account describing early day Ellsworth and his experience reads as follows:

"I had now saved enough money to take me out west, where I had long wanted to go. So I went to Chicago to the C. B. & Q. Station. I told the agent I wanted a ticket. He asked me "where to?" I said, "Out West." "We have no station by that name on our schedule. I then told him I wanted to go as far west as my money would take me. I poured out my money on the counter. The agent counted it—almost \$70—and informed me that I would have \$3.35 left after paying for a ticket to Ellsworth, Kansas, as far west as they were running trains. I invested most of my remaining \$3.35 in bologna and crackers. We got started. It was slow traveling in 1868. Leaving Kansas City, it took all day to get to Ellsworth. We arrived there about 7:00 p.m. I sat beside the depot until about 9 o'clock not knowing just where I would stay for the night. My finances now were only seventy five cents. So I ventured across the street to a big saloon with a big sign over the door, "U. S. Saloon." It was a big one, about 125 feet deep. I took a chair in a corner near the front where I could watch everything. It was getting interesting. Soldiers from Old Fort Harker were coming and going. The dames

and gamblers were there. Yes, there were Indian scouts, teamsters, bull whackers and citizens of all sorts promenading the streets, as well as the dance hall. The orchestra was playing melodious tunes and the ball was on. Drinking, gambling and dancing were in full blast, all of which was a new picture to me, and there I sat looking on.

Every now and then groups of long-haired men wearing high-heeled boots and spurs, red underwear, cartridge belts full of cartridges, scabbard at side with pair of six-shooters, and bowie knife would come, call for drinks, and as they went out, bang, bang, bang! would ring out from their guns! Poor Pete, sitting there in the corner, would jump every time a gun was fired, and say, believe me it was some new experience for Peter.

First Night In Ellsworth

Long after midnight the crowd began to thin out. About 3 o'clock the barkeeper tapped me on the shoulder, saying "Kid, wake up! We are going to close up." I knew this meant to get out. He was a fine looking fellow with black hair and black mustache, white shirt and glittering shirt studs. With me it was quite different. I was 2,000 miles from home and friends. I was broke, hungry, tired and sleepy. I asked the price of a bed. "One dollar," he said. There was no choice, no need to argue, so I just turned my pockets inside out to show that seventy-five cents was all I had. He accepted and led the way to "drunkards' heaven" where there were about fifty single cots containing that many drunk men. I lay there with fear and trembling until daylight, then got out quickly by the outside stairway, thanking God I was

spared once more."

Peter Robidoux left Ellsworth for Hays on the construction train where he got a job washing dishes. He later became noted for the trading post he established at Fort Wallace sometime later.

REMINISCENCES OF A PIONEER

In a previous article, a letter written by D. B. Long, brought such favorable comment that it is fitting to mention more of his experiences. It has also been brought to the writer's attention that the two little girls mentioned in the article were Mrs. J. R. McLaurin and Mrs. Roy Stauffer's mother. Also, that Mr. Long was Mrs. Will Holt's father. Mr. Long, while stationed at Fort Wallace as post hospital steward, describes the result of an Indian fight, as follows:

"Sgt. Williams of Co. G got separated from the company and was shot in the head, stripped of his clothing, heart cut out, nose cut off, hacked and split and scalped, and then had sixteen arrows shot into his body. It was a horrible sight. I had my hands full caring for the wounded.

"Three different men had arrows shot into their bodies which could not be extracted without shoving them through and cutting the fastenings to the barb and drawing the shaft back. Another had an arrow shot into his back around the vertebra, so that the doctor himself had to pull with all his strength to get it out. One fellow came in with his scalp hanging. I sewed it on and dressed the wound and made a good job as he got well and it only left a slight scar. Two of the men who were shot through with arrows got well, and one died. About this time, Mr. Farrow, who

had the officers' mess, went out a couple of miles in search of his mules and was killed by Indians and badly mutilated, scalped, and cut up. I went after his body with an ambulance. His mules were never recovered."

At Fort Wallace

Fort Wallace was, in 1867, the center of the Indian trouble and the government expended a great amount of money in putting up buildings. The new cut stone hospital was a beauty. I did not get into it until late in '67. The wood contractor, Wyatt, was furnishing wood for it at \$60.00 a cord. Comstock, the Indian guide, had difficulty in regard to some arrangement in giving Comstock part of the proceeds for telling him where he could find wood. This was in the Sutter store of Mr. Todd, some time in February, 1868. I was in the store at the time and heard loud talking, when Wyatt got up and was leaving the store, Comstock pulled out his six-shooter and shot Wyatt in the back. Wyatt ran out of the store and fell dead. During the trouble, as Comstock was shooting, I stepped up and tried to prevent Comstock from killing Wyatt. He turned on me and said, "You keep your hands off or I will kill you!" Wyatt was taken to the hospital dead room and searched by the officer of the day and guard for his money. Only a small amount was found. He was then turned over to me to prepare for burial. I found in a pocket in his shirt, a roll of bills of several hundred dollars. This money I could have kept had I wanted to, but I took it to the officer of the day and turned it over to him. I told the officer that Wyatt had borrowed \$200 from me and that I wanted him to see that I got what my

ote called for, which he did when Wyatt's brother from Denver came to settle his affairs. Comstock was arrested on the charge of murder and taken to Hays City for trial. At that time Wild Bill Hickok was city marshall and Hays was a rough place. It was the terminus of the Union Pacific railroad. There was raised among the rough element \$500.00 to clear Comstock. The Justice of the Peace, an Irishman from Leavenworth who was here to make more money, was giving preliminary examination when Mr. Todd, the principal witness, was put on the stand and swore that he saw Comstock shoot and kill Wyatt. Joyce, the Justice, asked the witness, "Did he do the shooting with felonious intent?" "I do not know what his intentions were, but I did see Comstock shoot Wyatt and Wyatt ran out of the store and fell dead." Joyce said, "The shooting was not done with felonious intent and there is not proof that it was. The prisoner is discharged for want of said proof." The county attorney immediately notified the commanding officer at Fort Wallace to send down to Hays another witness as the proof was not sufficient to convict the prisoner and I was detailed to go. As I went down on one coach, Comstock came up on the other, passing at a station. He was on the lookout and as his stage got in before ours, he was stationed in the barn. I, as luck would have it, did not get out of the stage while the horses were exchanged. He said he saw me, but I did not see him. He said if I had gotten out of the stage, I would never have gotten to Hays alive to give testimony against him. I arrived in Hays late in the evening and put up with the hospital steward for

the night. Early the next morning I went over to Hays City and reported to Justice Joyce. I was dressed in citizens clothing, having gotten permission to do so by the commander at Wallace. It seems that some of the Comstock sympathizers had found out that I was there to give evidence against Comstock and had sworn out a charge of desertion against me. When I reported to Joyce, he looked surprised and said I have just ordered your arrest as a deserter, but I find from your orders you are here to give evidence in the case of the State against Comstock. You will go over to the Hotel and stay until I call for you.

Comstock Escapes

I went there and loafed around for several days and as no effort was being made to capture Comstock, I took the stage back to Wallace. This ended the murder of the Indian scout at Fort Wallace. He was killed a short time after this.

Dr. Turner, Post Surgeon at Fort Wallace, was just the best man I was with in the army, so pleasant and kind, but he had the one fault so many of the army officers had—"drink". For a week at a time he would not be at the hospital so I had to do the work for him. He had delirium tremens and came near dying, and eventually he died after I left the army. Turner was very good to me. "Now steward, you have a family and I want you to make as much as you can out of this. I have all I need," he said, "and you make all you can." So I got a cow, pigs and chickens and a pony. I sold eggs at \$1.00 a dozen, milk at 15 cents a quart, butter at \$1.00 a pound, pork at 25 cents a pound, chickens at \$1.00 apiece. Mrs. Long made pies and cakes

and sold at a good price and she got her pay as matron of the hospital and cleared over 100 dollars a month, so when our time expired, we had over \$5,000.00 including my salary, which was \$45.00 per month, beside by allowance for clothing and rations which amounted to over \$300.00. I drew \$700.00 when I was discharged. Of course we were shut off from the world, had very little society and for weeks at a time we were without news from the states, as travel on the plains was often cut off by the Indians, who were hostile."

The writer has chosen these letters by D. B. Long, which, like so many others, portray the type of life endured by the pioneers of Kansas. Gruesome and startling, as they may seem, yet they reveal the true basis upon which the heritage of Kansas was built. Whether the events occurred near Ellsworth or surrounding territory, they are similar in their aspect. The settlers endured many hardships and dangers, and opened a frontier for us to enjoy.

LONG RETURNS TO HIS HOMESTEAD

As a private citizen, D. B. Long tells of his return to his homestead. "I arrived at Fort Harker the 8th of May, 1868, borrowed an army tent from Col. Henry Inman, quartermaster at the time at the fort, and pitched it down by the river. The first night we stayed with Theodore Sternberg at the Sternberg ranch, a short distance east of my place.

My first move after locating my house and getting ready to manufacture cheese, was to go and buy cows.

William Sage and his wife left Michigan about the first of April

with the team and wagon and were to go into partnership with me in the dairy business. With Theodore and Ed Sternberg and a hired man, we started to Dickinson County to buy cows for dairy purposes. I purchased a bunch of cows from a party near Solomon and another bunch near Abilene and another at Salina. We got all from three parties, 45 head. In crossing the Solomon River, which was very high, we could not get them on the pontoon boat, the only bridge on the river. We drove them in above the boat for them to swim across; the current was so swift that it piled them up against the bridge, so that most of them were sucked under the bridge and came out below and got out on the other side. One was drowned and I cut her throat and gave it to the parties there. She was fat and no doubt made fine eating. On reaching Salina, we went into camp on Dry Creek, and here got ten more dairy cows. The next morning who should drive into camp but Will Sage, my brother-in-law and his wife. To say we were delighted would be very mild. They had telegraphed me but I had not received it. It had been a hard trip for them as the roads were deep with mud all the way from Michigan. It required two days to make the trip home. We camped on Spring creek, near where Ned Root now lives, the first night. We had to keep a man on guard to prevent the cows from going back. The next day found us at home and glad to rest and were glad to have Will Sage and his wife with us, as Will and his wife understood farming much better than I did. The cows had to be milked, the calves fed and we were kept busy. Just remember, I had landed in

arker on the 8th of May, had built a house, a corral, bought these cows and made our first cheese June second. It rather astonished the natives. The range was fine and the cattle in splendid condition and turned out plenty of milk. Of course, we had to break some of the cows and some were kickers. It required skill and patience and lots of hard work. If I had put the same amount of money (\$1,600.00) in Texas cattle, I could have bought our times as many. I could buy Texas cows for \$10.00 per head and would have made more money with less expense and less labor, but I did not understand.

had to learn but I had made the great discovery that good cheese and butter could be manufactured from prairie grass in central Kansas—the first man to make the discovery. My books at the end of 1868 from June first of that year showed that we sold \$1,600.00. Of course we had to live and had the expenses to meet and we did live well and enjoyed being our own master, after six years of army life and roughing it.

Kaws Camp on Doorstep

In the fall of 1868, while Sage had taken a load of supplies to Fort Zarah for the government with a train, a band of Indians from the Kaw reservation came suddenly upon myself and a negro herder while we were milking in the corral by the river bank. There must have been at least 100 of them as they were all painted in war paints, with their feathers and Indian fixtures, bows and arrows and guns, ponies decorated with war colors, and before we were aware of their presence, they were between us and the house. To say I was frightened

would be true, for I was and the negro just turned pale and his eyes just seemed twice as large as common. I took my pail of milk and went up to the fence where the leader or chief had stopped. I said "how" and he said "how." I said, "Kiwa". He said, "Me no Kiwa, me Kaw, white man's friend." This gave me more courage and as I had recently bought a hundred and twenty wagon sheets from the government, and were piled up near the house and attracted their attention, and they asked me if they could have some of them. I said "yes" and before I could prevent it, they had appropriated the pile for their own use. I got to the house and the Indians, or about a dozen of them were making it interesting for Mrs. Long and Mrs. Sage begging for sugar and coffee. I got hold of my needle gun and told them to get out as we had no sugar and coffee to give them. They could get what they wanted at the fort. After awhile they left and went up the river where there was a grove of timber and went into camp, using my wagon covers for tents. They camped there for some time. They would prowl around but did no other damage.

I killed a hog and they were on hand to get the offals and promised me some buffalo meat for it. They said they were going to fight the Kiwas, but they were out for buffalo as they wanted to lay in a supply for winter. They were gone for several weeks, then returned and camped at the mouth of Ash Creek and tanned their buffalo hides. and sure enough, they brought me some meat.

Many Indian Alerts

During the fall of 1868 we had a good many Indian scares, and some were serious. One fine af-

ternoon, I think in August, Dr. E. B. Friar of the U.S.A., a surgeon at Fort Harker, who drove a black pony team and accompanied by a Lt. Thompson, were up in the bend of the Smoky Hill River, above our house hunting, as prairie chicken were quite numerous. About three o'clock here they came, driving like the wind, Thompson with his gun pointing toward the rear, and Friar whipping his ponies to make them run faster. When he got to my place, he called to me and said, "Long, take care of yourself, the Indians are coming", and on he went to the Sternberg's log house. A man by the name of Kitelinger was, at the time, painting my house. He was very much alarmed as my team was in the yard—had been hauling sand to plaster the house. He said, "Long, for God's sake, get your family into the wagon and to the fort." I said, "No, I will stay right here and take care of my property. You can take Tiger, a dark Bay Stallion and go." He stripped the harness off in no time and Tiger was off running stock. In less time than it takes to write this he made the distance, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. He rode up to the Commander's headquarters without a hat or a coat and yelled that the Indians had me surrounded and to send a company of soldiers to relieve me and my family. Pretty soon, here came a company double quick to repulse the Indians. I took my needle gun and went to drive in some pony stock into the corral and keep a sharp lookout for the Indians. Sage took a horse and went to help the negro in with the cows. The cows and herder were up in the bend of the river when Friar saw the Indians as he always declared. But the Indians did not show up

nor did Sage or the herder see any.

Indian Raid on Ash Creek

Later the Indians made a raid on Ash Creek, above where Joe Long now lives. A party was making hay on Ash Creek and the Indians came down on them and killed and scalped several men and ran off their horses.

A man by the name of Smith was living in a dugout on the bank of the creek. He and his wife heard the shooting and they went up the hill near the house and saw the Indians. The woman fainted and Smith carried her down to the creek and brought her to. To keep the dog from making a fuss, he tore her dress into strips and gagged the dog so he would not bark. Then they waded the creek and made their way to Fort Harker and reported. A party of citizens and soldiers started for them, but they had made their escape.

The same time this trouble was enacted, Sage and myself were making hay in a ravine east of Ash creek. He mowed and I raked. He had a big six shooter and I had a carbine across my lap. We always went armed and slept with our arms ready for action. It was a constant dread and excitement. Another scare was late that fall, when Robert Hudson's place, my house and Sternberg's house were the places the settlers gathered for protection. We built a fort in which the government furnished me 5 or 6 needle guns and ammunition, which was kept ready for action. This fort was near the house to which I had planned a runway or tunnel from the cellar to the fort. It was dug six feet deep and around about ten feet across with sawed oak blocks set flaring. It was

covered with timber and dirt. It was large enough for ten or twelve to occupy and three or four men could keep 50 Indians at bay, but we never had occasion to use it.

A BUFFALO HUNT

By D. B. Long

In the fall of 1869 General Nelson Miles was in command at Fort Harker. His brother-in-law, a nephew of General Sherman, came out from Cleveland, Ohio for a buffalo hunt. General Miles sent for me to go with the party. We were mounted, about a dozen of us on horseback, a few men detailed with a government wagon and mules to do the skinning and carry provisions for the party. We started quite early in the morning over the Santa Fe Trail from Harker to Zarah, which connected with the old Santa Fe Trail at that point. We got out to the flats at the head of Ash Creek or between Ash Creek and Oxide and discovered a small herd of buffalo grazing. There were about twenty-five or thirty head. The horsemen struck out for the herd, which were lighting out as fast as possible; in a race of about a mile, we took them and each hunter selected his animal and the fun and the excitement was on. I got beside a large bull and having a revolver that by pressing on the trigger, it would go off, in my excitement, I pressed too hard and off it went and came near hitting my foot. I was by this time, close beside the game and I pulled again the the bullet hit the bull in the shoulder, wounding him and he turned on me for a fight. My horse, by this time, was quite tired out, as the big fellow turned on me and with head down and his eyes like balls

of fire and tail in the air, he came at me with all his mad force. My horse stood paralyzed at the sight. I tried to make him go; on the huge monster came and just as I imagined myself and horse thrown into the air, I again struck the spurs into his flank. He made one bound and the infuriated buffalo just grazed his hip and passed beyond. Before he could turn for another charge, a lieutenant in the party saw my position and came to the rescue. A shot from his Winchester brought the buffalo to the ground. This was my last buffalo hunt on horseback. The best way to hunt buffalo is to keep out of sight and if you kill one, the others get the smell of blood, they will stay until you can kill several. Will Sage and myself went to near where Lorraine now stands, found a bunch of buffalo and killed eight before they ran, also killed an antelope. It was too bad to kill so many and not even skin them. We took back enough meat to last a long time.

A PET BUFFALO

By D. B. Long

Dr. Friar had a pet buffalo by the name of Lulu. She got to be a great nuisance at the Fort so he was ordered to dispose of her. He traded her to me for a yearling steer. I had to keep her shut up, she was so mischievous. I had two other buffalo that would follow the herd, but Lulu would not. I had to watch her or she would be in trouble with anyone that came near her. One day I found her in the cheese house. I went to drive her out and she just jumped through the window taking sash and all with her. Another time, she got out of the lot and Belle and Ella were going

over to Quinlan's. They were about 100 yards from the house when Lulu saw them. She made after them. I was just in the bend of the Smoky, at least three-quarters of a mile away on a big roan cattle horse, when I discovered the danger the girls were in. I put spurs to the horse in hopes of cutting off the buffalo before she could reach the girls who had not discovered the danger they were in. They were dressed in bright colors and red hoods, which enraged the buffalo. When they discovered their persuer, they were so frightened they just clung to each other and screamed. The buffalo reached them but was running at such a swift pace that she passed them, for the girls were then running to meet me. Before she could turn, I was after her with a big cattle whip and she went back to the house as fast as she came. Uncle Will Baily came out from Ohio and as he wanted to kill a buffalo before going back, I let him shoot her and take her hide back as a relic.

The Buffalo And Its Habits

Points of interest come to one's mind as recollections of the past are discussed. One of these was the so-called "buffalo wallow", still plainly visible in some of our virgin pastures here in Ellsworth county. The writer recalls seeing several in the Gregory pastures on Oxide creek. The story has been told that buffalo would paw the ground to form hollow places that might hold water following the spring rains, that they would have watering holes near the grazing grounds. In pursuit of the facts the writer found a letter written by R. M. Wright of Dodge City, given before the Kansas State Historical Society in

1901, which reads as follows:

"I want to say something of the buffalo and its habits. The buffalo wallow is caused by the buffalo pawing and licking the salty alkali earth, and when the sod is once broken the dirt is wafted away by the action of the wind; then, year after year, by more pawing and licking and rolling or wallowing by the animals, more wind wafts the loose dirt away, and soon there is a large hole in the prairie. Now there is a much more curious spectacle to be seen every year when the grass starts up; is even plainly to be seen yet when springtime arrives. These are the rings on the prairie; and there are thousands of them—yes, millions. From the first of April and until the middle of May was our wet season on the plains; this was always the case; you could depend upon it with almost the certainty of the sun and moon rising at the proper time. This was the calving season of the buffalo; the buffalo, not like our domestic cattle, only rutted one month, neither more nor less, then it was all over . . . It was all done after night. Then was the only time that the buffalo made any noise or fuss; but at this season they would keep up a low roaring sound all night, and, as a consequence, the cows all calved in a month. This was the wet month. At that time there were a great many gray wolves in the country as well as the little coyote. While the cows were in labor, the bulls kept guard to drive the wolves off, and, in their beat, made the rings referred to. I have had people argue to me that they were caused by lightning striking the earth; but it is certainly strange that lightning should only strike at these breed-

ing places and no where else. Others would argue that the Indians had their war-dances there, which is just about as absurd a statement as the other. Others even say that two bulls get their heads together in battle and push each other around until a circle is formed.

"Buffalos live to a great old age. I have heard it from best authority that some of them live to be seventy-five or eighty years old, and it is quite common for them to live thirty or forty years; in fact, I think I have seen many a bull's head that I thought to be over thirty years old.

"After a storm, when we would go in search of our lost cattle, we could tell the buffalo tracks from our cattle tracks because the buffalo tracks would be going against the storm every time, while our domestic cattle would invariably go with it. You see the buffalo is much more thinly clad behind than in front; nearly all of his coat is on his head, shoulders, and hump, and, when our cattle would turn tail, the buffalo would naturally face the storm."

Referring back to the buffalo wallow, it is plainly seen that the depressions in the earth, secondarily became watering places for the buffalo as they grazed upon the plains.

WHY THE INDIANS WERE ON THE WARPATH

A history of Ellsworth and Ellsworth county cannot be complete without reference to the Indians that played so important a part in the opening of the West. The conquest of the frontier was completed by the construction of the railroads. The Indians had been pushed back and placed on reservations. They realized their

situation and engaged in a final attempt to resist the white man. Hence, the raids that took place in 1868.

The Cheyennes and Kaws were mortal enemies and were constantly raiding each other. The Kaws to the east of Ellsworth were friendly to the settlements and often passed through Ellsworth. The Cheyennes were on reservation on the Washita—in a camp of approximately 300 lodges. Leaving the reservation, Black Kettle, chief of the Cheyennes and about forty braves made a raid into Central Kansas, which in its continuity, typifies the general character of the Indians. They were a miserable lot of dirty, half-clad, sullen savages, as they arrived at Fort Hays. They came into the post and claimed to be good Indians. All Indians were good when they wanted to be so, but the opinion prevailed on the border that the only really good Indians were the dead ones.

Black Kettle Speaks

The traditional pow-wow was held, as a matter of course, and on this occasion the function was successful. The big chief, with about a dozen or more of his principal warriors trailing him, strode into the post headquarters room, and with commanding gestures formed them in a circle, seated on the floor, their legs crossed in front, and then, with great unction, they proceeded with the ceremonial of "smoking the pipe of peace"—the farce was executed by their passing around the circle to the right a lighted pipe with a long stem. Beginning with Black Kettle, each Indian, as his turn came, took a few short whiffs at it, and then a full, deep, long drag; then taking the pipe from

his mouth he blew the smoke, with great effect, far away and high into the air. After each had thus smoked, and all had grunted, Black Kettle arose with great dignity, and facing the commanding officer made a speech. It is here recorded to give the reader an idea of the Indian's treachery.

Black Kettle's Speech

"Black Kettle loves his white soldier brothers, and his heart feels glad when he meets them and shakes their hands in friendship. The white soldiers ought to be glad all the time, because their ponies are so big and so strong, and because they have so many guns and so much to eat. We would like to be white soldiers, but we cannot, for we are Indians; but we can all be brothers. It is a long way that we have come to see you, hunting the buffalo. Six moons have come and gone and there has been no rain; the wind blows hot from the south all day and all night; the ground is hot and cracked open; the grass is burned up; the buffalo wallows are all dry; the streams are dry; and game is scarce. Black Kettle is poor and his band is hungry. He asks the white soldiers for food for his braves and their squaws and papooses. The Sioux have gone on the war-path, but Black Kettle will not follow their trail. All other Indians may take the war trail, but Black Kettle will forever keep friendship with his white brothers."

Braves Nod and Grunt

The braves all ratified these sentiments with affirmative nods and grunts, and every one shook hands with Black Kettle and congratulated him on his speech, which made him look very proud

and happy. The success of the function was made by the major who directed the commanding officer to issue to them ten sides of bacon and ten sacks of flour, with a liberal allowance of beans, coffee and salt. This was on August 7, 1868. In the morning they were gone. Three days later their hands were red with the blood of their white brothers."

On leaving Fort Hays, the Indians traveled eastward and camped the first night on the Saline river north of where Russell now stands. The second night they camped near the mouth of Spillman creek in Lincoln county, and the next day began their murderous work. They ran off the stock, burned the cabins, and killed or carried away every settler they found upon Spillman creek. Many of the old settlers north of Ellsworth have recalled, many times, the atrocities committed in that neighborhood.

Crossing the divide, the Indians entered the Solomon Valley and camped near the Great Spirit spring at Waconda. From there they moved eastward and upon reaching the settlements continued their work of murder and devastation. Fifteen persons were killed in this raid, and five women made captives. They crossed over into the Republican valley and worked westward with their prisoners and plunder.

Military Posts Are Alerted

Immediately the military posts became active and troops were dispatched from Fort Harker. In addition to these troops, on August 24, Major George Forsythe was directed by General Sheridan at Fort Harker, to employ fifty first class frontiersmen for six months to be used as scouts a-

gainst the hostiles. Within two days thirty men were enlisted and moved by rail to Fort Hays where the remainder were enlisted. Under orders from General Sheridan, Forsythe marched his troops in a northwesterly direction, arriving at Fort Wallace in September.

Refitting his command here, Forsythe moved eastward thirteen miles to Sheridan, then the end of the track of the Kansas division of the Union Pacific, where a band of Indians had attacked some freighters, killing two of them and burning their outfits. Taking the trail of these Indians, Forsythe followed it westward to the Arikaree fork of the Republican river. (Some 25 miles northwest of the present town of St. Francis, and over the line in Colorado.) Although no Indians had been sighted, the trail had widened into a broad, well-beaten road, and gave ample notice that the scouts were pressing close upon a very large body of them. So much was Forsythe impressed that he deemed it prudent to go into camp and rest and graze his horses, in anticipation of the impending struggle. They were not long in suspense. At daylight next morning, the Indians began the attack by attempting to stampede the herd, which was frustrated. Realizing the peril of his situation, Forsythe quickly moved his men onto a small island in the dry bed of the river, which afforded the advantages of some shelter and water. The prompt execution of this movement saved the command from utter annihilation.

The Indians came in swarms over the adjacent hills and from the ravine, and within a few minutes a thousand painted warriors had completely encompas-

sed the island. They were under Cheyenne Chief, who directed the maneuvers with great skill and courage. For several hours they directed a continual fire upon the scouts, which only slackened to enable some adventurous band to attempt to force the position by assault. The Indians' fire was returned with great spirit and every assault was repulsed with terrible slaughter.

Maddened by the failure of his repeated efforts to destroy this trifling band of white men, Roman Nose massed about 300 of his best warriors and mounted, personally led them in the most spectacular assault in the history of Indian warfare. The scouts, armed with the Spencer repeating carbine, held their fire until the Indians were close upon them, when they poured volley after volley upon the savage hordes with murderous effect. At the fifth volley, Roman Nose was killed, and fell from his horse. With the loss of the chief, the assault failed; the serious fighting was over; the scouts had won; the Indians discouraged, withdrew out of rifle range. The fighting had been fast and furious since daybreak, and the plight of the scouts remained critical. Forsythe had received two severe wounds—his right leg had been shattered and his left broken below the knee. Thirty of the scouts had been killed and wounded. All horses were dead and provisions exhausted. They were ninety miles from Fort Wallace, the nearest point from which relief could come, and were surrounded by hundreds of blood-thirsty savages. Two of the scouts volunteered to steal through the Indian lines in the night and carry a message on foot, to Fort Wallace. They succeeded, and the

remnant of the command was rescued on September 26, by the arrival of a company of cavalry. The Indians broke up into small bands and retired into the solitudes of their winter camping grounds.

This famous battle became known as the Battle of the Arickaree, or the Battle of Beecher's Island. (Ed. Note—Years later, the state of Colorado and various historical groups joined in the erection of a monument, commemorating the battle, on the site. Each year on September 17 and 18, until 1935, a celebration, featuring a memorial service, was held on the site. Then on May 30, 1935, the great flood on the Republican and Arickaree rivers completely obliterated the island, and the monument was buried beneath many feet of sand. Since then, the memorial events have been fewer, although attempts have been made at various times to recover the monument which has since been located.)

CUSTER'S VENGEANCE

The battle of the Arickaree brought to a head a grave decision by the War Department, namely, to start a winter campaign against the hostiles; to seek them out and surprise them in the security of their winter quarters, and administer such punishment as would deter them from committing further depredations upon the settlements. So much importance attached to this movement that General Sheridan remained in the field, with his headquarters at Fort Hays, and assumed personal command of the campaign.

Several units were formed under General Sully and Major El-

liott. The expedition moved south during the latter part of September, but its operations were not satisfactory to Sheridan. It was advancing into what was then an unexplored region, occupied by hostile Indians, and Sully proceeded cautiously, too much so to meet the views of his impetuous commander, who thereupon applied to the honorable secretary of war to have General Custer, of the Seventh Cavalry, assigned to the expedition. This dashing cavalry leader was at the time serving out a sentence of "loss of rank and pay for one year" imposed upon him by a general court-martial, for absenting himself from his command without authority. This bit of fact is here recorded to show the reader that justice was dealt in those times as now.

Why Custer Was Demoted

It came about this way. During the summer of 1867 Custer had led his regiment against the Indians in northwestern Kansas. Starting from Fort Hays, at the mouth of the north fork of Big Creek, he traversed the valleys on the headwaters of the Saline, Solomon and Republican rivers. Upon reporting at Fort Wallace, he heard of the ravages of the cholera at Forts Hays, Harker and Riley. The General's wife was at the latter post, and, prompted by solicitude for her welfare, he left the regiment under command of a subordinate officer, and with an escort of one hundred men, made a hazardous march of 200 miles to Fort Harker, then the western terminus of the railroad. For this breach of military discipline he was tried, and sentenced.

Acting upon the request of General Sheridan, the unexpired portion of Custer's sentence was re-

mitted. After reporting to Sheridan, Custer joined his regiment with Sully's command south of the Arkansas.

The Bark of a Dog

November 12, 1868, the column moved south into the Indian country; established the post Camp Supply, and began the search for Indian villages. On the morning of the 27th, Major Elliott struck the trail of a war party. As soon as the information reached Custer, the whole command was put in pursuit, and continued with but one short halt. The Indian camp was discovered at one o'clock in the morning by one of the Osage guides, whose quick ear heard the distant barking of a dog. The column immediately halted, and, after the guide had located the village, the officers, leaving their swords behind, to avoid the possibility of making a noise, were taken forward to a position from which they could see the location of the village and the adjacent ground. After withdrawing from this advanced position the plan of attack was quickly decided upon. The troops were divided into four detachments. Two of them were ordered to make a detour of several miles and unite below the village; another was to attack from the right; while Custer, with three companies was to lead the attack from the position the troops then occupied. Upon arriving at their positions they were to await the dawn and the signal for the attack to begin, which was to be given by the band playing "Gary Owen."

Custer Leads the Attack

Signaling the band to play, Custer at the head of his column, galloped down through the vil-

lage, his troopers firing right and left upon the startled savages as they rushed from the teepees. No quarter was shown in this battle, and it continued as long as there were any warriors left to fight. It proved to be Black Kettle's camp, and he and all his warriors were killed, except a few who got away between the forces of Benteen and Elliott below the village. Many squaws and children, too, were killed and wounded, being unavoidably struck by the indiscriminate firing. It was a terrible slaughter; a terrible vengeance for Indian atrocities.

The battle being ended, Black Kettle's herd, numbering 500 ponies, was rounded up, and after the captured squaws had been allowed to select as many animals as they required to carry them, their children, and their household effects, the remainder were killed, the teepees were taken down, and with the camp equipment were placed in piles and burned, making the destruction of the village complete.

Maj. Elliot Is Killed

At this time a new danger developed. Black Kettle's camp was only the first of a series of Indian camps in the valley. These Indians heard the firing, and in due time as many as 100 warriors in battle costume swarmed upon the adjacent hill. They were prudent, however, and fell back when attacked, but promptly reformed when the troops were withdrawn. In one of these encounters Maj. Elliott and fourteen enlisted men were killed.

A train of thirty wagons, with the camp equipage, rations, and forage, was coming up on the trail under an escort of eighty men, and there was great dan-

ger that it would be discovered and destroyed by the Indians that now menaced Custer. To divert attention from that direction, and to deceive the Indians, Custer put his troops and prisoners in motion down the valley toward these Indian's villages. The ruse was successful; the Indians galloped with all possible haste to protect their homes; then, as soon as night began to fall, Custer faced about and marched rapidly back on his trail to meet the train. The command arrived at Camp Supply without further incident.

Reports of the battle and victory had been sent by the scouts to General Sheridan, who was there to meet and congratulate the general.

Two White Women Captives

Following this battle, the Kiowas, Arapahoes and the Apaches returned to their reservations, but the Cheyennes kept beyond the reach of communications. Finally they were overtaken and it was found that they had two white women, a Mrs. Morgan and a Miss White, who were taken by Black Kettle in the Solomon valley, with them. It was therefore not prudent to attack them, lest the Indians would kill the women. Diplomatic relations were therefore established and negotiations begun to release the women and the return of the band to their reservation.

It was soon evident that the Indians planned to make a getaway, so Custer surrounded the camp and made captive four of the principal men, and held them prisoners. One of them was released later to carry a message to the camp, namely, that if the women were not released the three chiefs would be killed. This prov-

ed to be "good medicine" for at sundown next day the two women, half starved and clothed in gowns of empty flour sacks, were brought into camp. But the chiefs were not released, and the march began toward Fort Hays. On reaching camp the Nineteenth Kansas was mustered out of service and the squaws and children were placed in the stockade, built for their reception. The chiefs were placed in the stockade with them, but later, fearing an attempt would be made by the tribe to release them, it was decided to confine the chiefs in the guard-house. When the detail appeared to take the Indians out of the stockade, the latter supposed they were to be taken out to be tortured and killed, whereupon they attacked the guard and Fat Bear drove a knife deep into the back of Sergeant Hogan, inflicting a dangerous wound. There was a scrimmage, the guard fired, Big Head and a squaw were killed, Fat Bear was run through the body with a bayonet and died three days later, Dull Knift was wounded, but recovered.

Later in the summer the Cheyennes having returned to their reservations and promised to be good, Dull Knife and the remainder of the Indian prisoners were released and restored to their tribes.*

Custer's operations struck terror to the hearts of the Cheyennes and broke the spirit of all the southern Indians. He not only annihilated Black Kettle's band of 130 warriors, killed their ponies, burned their village, but struck terror to the other tribes. The white man's vengeance was swift and terrible, but it won a measure of permanent peace and immunity from Indian atrocities for

the settlers on the Kansas frontier. But it is left up to the reader to judge the white man's methods, the Indian's attempt at survival, and who was in the right in their fight for the freedom of peaceful living.

*Editor's note—Dull Knife made one more raid—with a band of warriors variously estimated at from 25 to 60, he led the last Indian attack upon the whites in Kansas, on September 30, 1878, when the band killed some 18 settlers along the Sappa creek southwest of what is now Oberlin in Decatur county, and on the Beaver between Herndon and Luddell in Rawlins county. Primarily a stock-thieving raid, the raiders did not hesitate to strike down any settlers in the way. The band, with Dull Knife leading, was later finally run to earth near what is now Ogallala, Nebr., and the survivors returned to reservation. It was the last Indian raid in Kansas and there are a number of pioneers living in that area, who remember the anxiety of their parents, although they were very small children at the time.

COL. HENRY INMAN HAD MUCH TO DO WITH EARLY HISTORY OF AREA

A history of Ellsworth would not be complete without the mention of Col. Henry Inman, prominent Kansan, who played an important part in the opening of the West. Col. Inman was stationed at Fort Harker as Quartermaster General and had charge of the distribution of supplies to the forts west of Harker. Many were his experiences with the cavalry during the Indian wars, and thru his accurate accounts and his precise method of keeping notes he

has become known as a famous author and historian. Eight books written by him are now much in demand by book collectors and the writer is privileged to have in his collection the complete set in first edition form.

Col. Henry Inman was of Dutch extraction, his ancestors coming from Holland. They settled in the colony on Manhattan Island where they became a part of the old Knickerbocker aristocracy of New York. Henry Inman was born July 3, 1837 on a farm east of Hempstead, Long Island. At the age of 20 he entered the army, and was assigned to duty on the Pacific Coast. In the Civil War, his command was a part of the Army of the Potomac, where he was aide-de-camp to General George Sykes. He was severely wounded in the Seven Days' Battle before Richmond. For gallantry in this field he was promoted. At the close of the War his command was assigned to duty on the frontiers of the West. Here he was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. He retired from the Army in 1874, having seen hard and long continued service under the famous generals, Custer and Sheridan. It was in the Army that he became the companion of such noted frontiersmen as W. F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody and Kit Carson.

Col. Inman's Writings

Following is a brief description of Col. Inman's books, giving the reader an enlightening review and furnishing a record for those interested in making a study of the finest, most authentic literature on the Old West.

The rarest of all of Col. Inman's volumes is his first book, "Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail" published in 1881 by Ramsey, Millet and

Hudson, Kansas City, Mo. The first issue was bound in paper and is a rare collectors' item. This book was later published in board cover and the writer knows of only two of the first issue in existence. The book consists of 15 stories which are mostly of western Kansas life during the early frontier days. "Tales of the Trails" which was published in 1898, is a re-write of thirteen of these stories, published by Crane & Company, Topeka, Kansas.

"The Old Santa Fe Trail" (1898) MacMillan Company, New York, is probably his most famous and widely read volume. It gives a comprehensive account of the famous trail and contains many of the experiences of the traders, trappers, merchants, travelers and Indian campaigns. "The Great Salt Lake Trail", (1898) MacMillan Co., New York, is a story of one of the seven historic trails that crossed the great Plains. This trail was made famous by the Mormons. It was used by Fremont, Stansbury and Lander; by the Pony Express and the Overland Stage.

"The Ranche on the Oxide" (1898), MacMillan Company, New York, is a story of the late sixties and the early 70's in Ellsworth county, near the town of Ellsworth. This story gets its name from the creek on which the Thompson family settled when they came to this part of Kansas. The creek was called the "Oxide" because a yoke of oxen had been found dead with the yoke still on them, as though they had been tied to a tree and left to starve. It was supposed that the owners had been killed by Indians who left immediately without looking for the oxen. The author gives a very full description

of the country at that time and tells of the dangers that faced the early settlers. When the Thompson family first came to Ellsworth, they found large herds of buffalo and antelope. The streams were full of fine fish. The family at first was able to live upon the game the boys were able to kill.

Other Inman Writings

"A Pioneer From Kentucky" (1898) Crane & Company, Topeka, Kansas, is an Idyll of the Raton Range, and dedicated to Mrs. Inman. "The Delahoydes" (1899), Crane & Company, Topeka, Kansas, is a story of the Delahoyde boys, being a juvenile tale of the frontier. The localities are true in their geographical description and the incidents of the plot are real experiences. "Buffalo Jones, Forty Years of Adventure" (1899), Crane & Co., Topeka, is a compilation of facts gathered from the experiences of the famous frontiersman C. J. (Buffalo) Jones. This book is a rarity among book collectors and but few are listed as available.

In describing Fort Harker, Col. Inman states: "In its hospitable quarters more of the distinguished generals have slept and been entertained than any other post in the United States. Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Harney, Terry, Howard, Schofield, Marcy, Miles, Grierson, Custer, A. J. Smith and Sully were there at one time or another."

Of interest also is a description of Sa-tan-ta, war chief of the Kiowas. Sa-tan-ta, the leading spirit of the allied tribes, disseminated a friendship for the whites, and during all the time the government was making preparations for the campaign at the several posts he made frequent visits to

them, ostensibly to show that he was for peace, but really to inform himself what was going on in the direction of the conflict.

He was a short, stout, bullet-headed Indian, full of courage, well-versed in strategy, and in every attribute of his nature, a devil incarnate. He ordinarily, when on a visit to one of the military posts, wore the uniform of a major general, a suit of that rank—a cast-off one—having been presented to him by General Hancock in 1867. He possessed an ambulance, four mules and harness—stolen from a government train in some raid on the Santa Fe Trail. It will be proper here to interpolate the remark that according to the stipulations of the Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867 the Indians were allowed to retain all the mules, horses and other stock stolen from innocent settlers, without having to pay a cent out of their annuities.

"In that ambulance, with a trained Indian driver, the wily Satan—ta traveled, wrapped in a savage dignity that was laughable. He was the scourge of the prairies and responsible for more hellish deeds of cruelty than any Indian of his era. He unfortunately escaped a criminal's death, and expired peacefully a few years later in a Texas prison."

Col. Inman died in Topeka on November 13, 1899. He became famous for his writings, eight in all that were published, and three that were never published at the time of his death. They were: "The Cruise of a Prairie Schooner", and "Muriel, the Colonel's Daughter"; and a third that was unnamed.

Three grandchildren of Col. Inman are still living here in Ellsworth, namely: Joseph Seitz, John Seitz, and Mrs. John Novak.

Typical of Col. Inman's descriptive ability is here recorded on the subject, "Did Custer Commit Suicide?" Custer was one of Inman's closest friends and as there were no survivors of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, all accounts recorded of the battle were taken from Indian witnesses and it is said that because of fear many tales were fabricated to the extent that those upholding the General's dignity were accepted for the government record. The following account is given by Col. Inman.

Did Custer Commit Suicide? By Col. Henry Inman

"Little is known of the origin of scalp-taking, and that, vague and indefinite; nearly every tribe has some wild, weird legend to account for the custom, but these traditions vary widely as to the cause. . . With the Indian there appears to be some close affiliation between the departed spirit and his hair . . . All the excellent qualities of the victim go with his hair the moment it is wrenched from his head. If it be that of a renowned warrior, so much the more are they anxious to procure his scalp, for the fortunate possessor then inherits all the bravery and prowess of its original owner.

"The Indians of the Plains would rather, for the reason last above stated, take one scalp of a famous scout or army officer who has successfully chastised them—like Custer, Sully or Crook, than a dozen of those of ordinary white men. . . It is believed by most Plains Indians that the soul attaches itself to the scalp; that the soul of a person scalped does not suffer from the wounds inflicted on the body, but that the converse is the case where the scalp is not

torn off.

"One who kills himself in battle, accidentally or purposely, has positively no hereafter; he is irrevocably lost. . . . If after a battle there are found corpses not scalped or their bodies not mutilated, it is certain that those persons came to their death by their own hand for it is part of the religion of an Indian not to scalp or mutilate the body of an enemy who commits suicide. His superstition in regard to persons dying by suicide or by lightning is as religiously observed as any other of his myths.

"Knowing this deep-rooted superstition as I do, I have been led to believe . . . that the death of the lamented General Custer in that awful unequal battle of the 'Little Big Horn' was not according to the accepted theory at that time, viz: that he was killed by the Indian chief "Rain-in-the Face." . . . If by any probability Rain-in-the-Face did kill Custer, he certainly would have scalped him . . . CUSTER WAS NOT Scalped . . . My own theory is—and the fact that Custer was not scalped or mutilated is not the only confirmation—that the General killed himself to escape the horrible torture that awaited him should he be captured alive. His capture was what Sitting Bull had undoubtedly determined upon, the moment he saw the tide of battle unmistakably turning in his favor.

"The truth of how Custer came to his death can never absolutely be known, for out of that awfully unequal conflict there came but one miserable Crow Indian and Col. Koegh's celebrated horse 'Comanche' alive. From the fact that the great soldier was not scalped, the theory I have sug-

gested is certainly more plausible, and will be accepted by all who are familiar with the customs of the Indians, than that story which has made the rounds of the newspapers a dozen times."

INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN AND AROUND EARLY ELLSWORTH

Many incidents took place in and near Ellsworth in the early days, some sad, and some humorous. They definitely form a part of the history of the town, and should be included in its review.

Indians were much feared by the people although some tribes were friendly. The Cheyennes and Comanches were the ones most feared. In a letter by Sam Butler, an early resident, it is stated, "Some Indians were peaceable and welcome to our town. One band of the tribe of the Pottawatomie, I think they were, came through Ellsworth after a fight with some Indians of another tribe in which they had been successful. While with us, they gave a war dance, exhibiting the scalps and feet and hands they had taken from their enemies. It was a disgusting sight."

On another occasion a party of Pawnee Indians were returning northward from a marauding expedition, and had got as far north as Ellsworth, when a Deputy United States Marshall, named Fox, collected a posse and attacked the unsuspecting and peaceable Indians. Fox and his gang killed one of the Indians in the streets of Ellsworth, and chased the band to the Smoky, where they killed three more, and took a number of them prisoners and locked them up. The citizens stigmatized the act as uncalled for, cold blooded murder, and set those at liberty whom

Fox and his gang had placed in confinement. It can readily be seen that the atrocities committed were not all done by the Indians.

Another note from Sam Butler's letter reads as follows: "From Ellsworth some miles west, I don't remember how many, there used to be a coal mine from which very poor coal was taken. The man who had it was killed by a band of Indians, after which they came down the south side of the Smoky Hill river, and when about opposite Ellsworth, ran off some stock. After the alarm was given, a party of us took after them, but they had too much of a start on us, and got away."

"An amusing incident happened in this connection which was related to us a little later in the day by a wagon boss who said he was riding some little distance ahead of his train that was headed for Ellsworth from some southern point, when he saw this band of Indians coming toward him, and gave him chase. Turning about, he drove his horse with all possible speed back to his train where he was safe, the Indians not daring to attack him there."

An old settler tells a story about a young Jew who had come from the East to this thriving little city to establish a business. He had rented a fair-size building with sleeping quarters in the rear and his business in front. He had spent considerable time and money in arranging his wares for the big opening, the following Monday morning. On the Sunday evening before the appointed day of the opening the store for business, several of the cowboys, having an unusual amount of liquor under their belts, had shot and killed a more unfortunate comrade, and not knowing what to do with the

unlucky fellow, they carried him over to the Jew's establishment, and stood him up against the door. The following morning being Monday, the Jewish tradition caused the little fellow to spend many minutes with careful preparation of his toilet in readiness for his first customer. A smile so radiant that it illuminated the entire store, a step so firm and quick, a touch here and there, "Ah yes, we are ready to do business!" Stepping lightly to the door, he opened it with eager anticipation, but his first customer fell into his arms, stiff and dead.

The little Jew did not wait for an explanation, but caught the first train headed east, boarding it at Fort Harker. He walked from Ellsworth to the fort.

Strangers Unquestioned

M. Quad describes Ellsworth law:

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"Strangers came and went, or came and left their bones behind. One had the right to come and go at will. One had the right to kill, or stand up and be killed. If a man drank at a bar and paid for it, or if he lost at cards and settled the score, he was looked upon as all right. If he gave his name, he was called by it; if not, he was referred to in some other way. If he shot a man, he was expected to treat the crowd. If he was the victim of a bullet, he was expected to die promptly, and remain quiet in his shallow grave. There was but one law, and that was the gun. In one saloon it was the custom to shoot a man in the back; in another to kill him as he drank with you at the bar; in a third to stand in the front door and fire. Customs varied, but the law was always the same—shoot your man before he shoots you."

THE "Half-way" House

Colonel Hadley relates the following incident: "Charley and Frank Johnson, two brothers, kept the Halfway House two miles from Ellsworth on the road to Fort Harker. It was a rough place. Charley beat Wagonmaster Swerenger with the handle of a revolver till he was carried out senseless. All knew that their first meeting meant death. One night at Coe's dance hall, Charley pushed his way to the front door and was going out. The place was crowded, tables were surrounded, the floor was full of dancers. Swerenger entered. When they were about ten feet apart, both stopped in their tracks and started shooting. Some had already ducked earlier, others tried to get out of danger's way now as quickly as possible. Johnson's gun flashed first, Swerenger's followed close upon it. The two made a prolonged report. People ran to cover, women screamed, both revolvers cracked till they were empty.

Swerenger sank first. Johnson was wearing a white shirt without a coat or waistcoat. This began to color at the first shot. Johnson staggered and was helped next door to the Marshall House with blood flowing from his mouth, nostrils, and five bullet wounds. He died in about 35 minutes after the shooting. The wagonmaster, Swerenger, died at dawn. Neither man spoke before he died.

"Swerenger's friend Charley Allen was on the way to Ellsworth from New Mexico with a Kitchen's wagon train. On the way in, he had a fight with twenty Indians twenty miles above Fort Larned. He came into town a week later and found out that his friend had died. He was immediately ready to go out and wipe out the Half-

way House, but he was persuaded to fight Frank Johnson away from home. Allen was a slender, blue-eyed, mild-looking man. Johnson's friends laughed at the idea of a fight.

"The one street of Ellsworth was very broad. Probably when Allen stepped out he could look freely in every direction and Johnson was pointed out because they were strangers. The saloon keeper knew the time had come. He waited. A hundred men watched in the distance. Neither man spoke until they were close together, each taking in the other's movements. Each face was set and white. When they were only a few feet apart a sentence or so passed between them, heard only by the two. Then together each pistol was out, flashing. Neither man fell when both pistols were empty. Johnson stooped as if to draw a knife from his boot, relaxed, and fell forward. Allen turned to go in the Larkin Hotel. He walked about thirty paces and sat down in a door. He asked if Johnson was dead, and was told he was dying. 'I'm dizzy,' he said. 'Help me to Larkins'. He died from two wounds in a short time. Johnson's wounds were unimportant. He lived through this episode only to die a more violent death. Johnson had a mean temper and it was growing worse. His neighbors did not like this and told him to mend his ways. They were told to 'go to hell! He closed his place one sultry night when he was called from the road. He stood in the door. A plausible excuse was given, and with cocked pistol in his hand he went out. Men took him and carried him to the old cottonwood tree near the Marshall house and hanged him. Not a sound was made by the men in charge. People

sleeping in the Half Way House didn't hear a thing."

So, thus was the life in Ellsworth as it existed as an "end of the track town"—the violent element dominated the activities and continued so until the tracks extended on west. The rough element left and Ellsworth became a peaceful place to live in. New, permanent buildings were constructed as new business took shape.

A change was soon to take place in Ellsworth as it was marked for another period of violence, this time as a cowtown at the end of the Chisholm and Texas Trail.

COWTOWN

A new era came into existence on the plains with the building of the railroad. Great herds of cattle, which had accumulated during the Civil War in Texas, could now be moved to the eastern markets. Great drives headed out of Texas to Abilene in 1867 where buyers met cattlemen and closed fantastic deals. Much has been written about the vicious life of a cattle town of the early days, and many people deplore the fact that this history is ever mentioned, yet Abilene, being the first, Ellsworth the wickedest, and Dodge the last, cannot hide this notoriety. Abilene has capitalized on it, Dodge has become famous as the cowboy capital, written up in books, movies and television—only Ellsworth has shrunk away from the facts. Ellsworth has failed to grow, surrounded by landmarks of the past, such as the old jail, Beebe's store, Grand Central Hotel, the old river crossing, the military bridge, Duke Alexis rock, the buffalo tracks on Ash Creek, the old Indian sites, Palmer cave, the old coal fields that were worked by the pioneers, Fort Harker guard house, the site

of old Fort Ellsworth, and many more—how many of these can the reader recall ever seeing? Yet, the writer has on many occasions led visitors from many states to these spots to be enjoyed and photographed. Would not a series of markers describing these spots attract visitors that would tell of the interesting past of Ellsworth? Many of these visitors have remarked that Ellsworth is missing a fortune in not exposing this rich heritage to the interested visitors.

The Cattle Drives

Getting back to the cattle drives, it is interesting to note the great increase in movement of cattle out of Texas. Abilene was the first market, receiving 35,000 head in 1867. 75,000 were driven into Kansas in 1867, 150,000 in 1869, 300,000 in 1870, and the greatest movement of all time came in 1871, when 600,000 cattle were driven to the rail heads in Kansas. Only about half of these were shipped as the rest were held on winter pasture because of the poor eastern market.

The farmers around Abilene soon tired of having these vast herds in their vicinity and issued a proclamation to the Texans that they did not want them back the following year. The cattle trade moved to Ellsworth and the railroad constructed the largest loading pens in the State. In 1872, 350,000 cattle were driven into Kansas, and 450,000 in 1873, this being the peak year for Ellsworth.

Permanent Building Begins

The year 1872 was one of considerable improvement and growth for Ellsworth. Several good permanent buildings were erected. The court house was built on the corner of north Main and Lincoln—a fine two-story brick building. The lower floor was divided into

county offices, and the upper floor was used as a court room. Immediately in rear of the court house, a solidly built stone jail was erected, two stories high, the upper story being finished off as a residence for the sheriff, while the lower story is partitioned off into cells. (This building still remains.) Minnick & Hcunson erected a neat two-story brick building on South Main as a drug store. The Cottage Hotel and a livery stable in connection, and not the least important the 300-foot iron bridge across the Smoky. Arthur Larkin built the Grand Central Hotel (now the White House Hotel) replacing the Larkin House which was destroyed by fire. Many new residences were also built, all north of the railroad tracks. The growth of the town was steady and necessitated the building of a new school house in 1873, to replace the little stone school which was built in 1869. Prior to this building, school was taught by a Mr. Wellington in a small frame building south of the tracks.

Longhorns Brought Trouble

The stage was all set for a riotous and profitable season as the principal shipping point for Texas cattle. The first three droves of longhorns, numbering one thousand head each, arrived in June, 1872. Two weeks later twenty-eight herds had arrived, numbering one thousand to six thousand in each herd, and totaling nearly 60,000 head. Added to this number a total of 40,000 that had been wintered in the vicinity of Ellsworth, made a total of 100,000 cattle ready to be shipped out. Buyers were waiting for the drovers to arrive, which gave them a chance to sell early and go home. The prices were pretty good, with

buyers offering \$19 to \$22 for beeves; \$15 to \$18 for three-year-olds; \$8 to \$10 for two-year-olds; \$12 for cows, and \$6 for yearlings.

The Boom Starts

Ellsworth was facing a building boom. People were coming from every direction. The Ellsworth Reporter of March 12, 1872, predicted that half of Abilene would be in Ellsworth within two months. Men gathered here from every state, nation and profession. There were Texans, Mexicans, emigrant, homesteaders, stockbuyers and drovers. The shady group of society were especially well represented—gamblers, deadbeats, thieves, scores of the demi-monde and gunmen. Whiskey selling was the most profitable business, but many honorable business men were enjoying a heavy run on the items they had for sale. The saloons and gambling houses kept open all night. During the first seven months, thirteen dram shop keepers were licensed and doing business. They paid every year \$500 for a city license, \$25 for a government license, and \$10 for a general business tax. The lawless element was growing worse and out of control, so the city fathers decided that since they could not root out lawlessness, they were going to make all of the shady vocations contribute to the maintenance of law and order.

Fines Paid City Bills

The entire sum of municipal expense was paid from licenses and fines. Taken from the Topeka Commonwealth newspaper, July 1, 1873, is the following: "The city realizes three hundred dollars per month from prostitution fines alone. The city authorities consider that as long as mankind is depraved and Texas cattle her-

ders exist, there will be a demand and necessity for prostitutes, and that as long as prostitutes are bound to dwell at Ellsworth, it is better for the respectable portion of society to hold them under the restraint of law." Over thirty names of such loose women may be found in the police records. They were haled into court on various charges and paid fines ranging from five to thirty dollars. The crimes for which the men were brought before the police judge most often were drunk and disorderly conduct, and carrying or discharging deadly weapons. The city marshal was paid \$125 a month and a fee for each arrest.

Osborne Was Police Judge

Some of the shady characters who came to Ellsworth, and were to play a part in its history, were the gamblers Ben and Billy Thompson, John Sterling, Cad Pierce and Neil Cain. On the side of the law there was Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok. The city police force consisted of a marshal and four deputies who were appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council. Brocky Jack Norton was marshal. Ed Hogue, John DeLong, John Morco and John Brauhan were employed as policemen. Vincent B. Osborne was the police judge. Most of his work came during the cattle season. His court room was over Lar-kin's Dry Goods Store.

Although many arrests were made in a season and many fines collected, yet gossip has it that many of the fines were not entered in the official records, hence much of the evidence pertaining to incidents that took place is missing and some cannot be established as fact.

THE BIG YEAR—1873

The cattle began coming to Ells-

worth early in the year 1873. Already, on April 28, herds numbering from two to ten thousand head each were reported on their way to Ellsworth. The largest herd was being driven through by W. S. Perryman and Company (10,000). Allen and Bennette came next with 8,000, Millet and Mabry, 6,000 head. Cattle piled up thick and fast. The local paper on May 29th reported 100,000 head in the vicinity of Ellsworth, by the middle of June 143,000 cattle were grazing on the luscious buffalo grass south of town. The town boasted that its stockyards under the management of Colonel R. D. Hunter were the biggest in the state. The pens, made of unpainted lumber, covered several acres in the western part of town. Two hundred cars could be loaded in a day from these yards. It may be of interest to the reader to record here the cost of shipping cattle on the Kansas Pacific. Ellsworth to Chicago rate, per car, including two feedings enroute, was \$90., or \$4.50 per head. Ellsworth to St. Louis, \$60 per car, or \$3.00 per head. Ellsworth to Kansas City, \$35 per car, or \$1.50 per head. About twenty head could be shipped in a car. The saving is readily seen in the shipping of stock to Kansas City, which city boasted very large packing houses, capable of handling 100,000 beevs annually.

Ellsworth also boasted of a new cattle trail surveyed by the Kansas Pacific railroad, which shortened the distance from Texas to Kansas railheads by about thirty-five miles. It was called "Cox's Trail" or "Ellsworth Trail" and was surveyed along a route that had abundant water and grass enroute. The people of Ellsworth and the Kansas Pacific made ev-

ery effort to bring the cattle trade to Ellsworth. They pointed out that the town had the best railroad facilities, the largest yards, the best hotel accommodations, a frontier theater, a permanent population of 800, surrounded by unlimited grazing ground. "Flies, ticks, and mosquitoes are not to be found on the verdant prairies surrounding Ellsworth."

When the cattlemen and their herds came to Ellsworth they found a railroad town laid out along the tracks. A few brick structures were to be found, but in general, the business houses were built of lumber.

Benches for the 'Loafers'

Most of the business places provided wooden benches under the awnings for loafers, along the wooden sidewalks. Hitching posts for the farmers' teams, and for the cow ponies lined the streets. Some of them were occupied at all times, day or night. Dust lay deep in the streets, and when it rained the mud was even deeper, in spite of the grading and draining ordered by the city council. Cowboys inspecting the town found various firms doing business. West of South Main stood the Drovers' Cottage, a three-story hotel with 84 rooms. This building had been brought to Ellsworth from Abilene in sections loaded on flat cars. Also on South Main stood Powers Bank, Minnick's and Hounson's brick drug store, and John Bell's Hardware. East of Douglas on South Main stood Jake New's saloon, John Kelley's American House and Nick Lentz's saloon where strong drinks and hot and cold baths were available. A double building housed Jerome Beebe's general store, and Brennan's saloon was next to

Beebe's. A half block east, Whitney and Kendall had their furniture store.

On North Douglas eastward, was Seitz's Drug store, the oldest established drug store in Western Kansas. Next was the post office, then a gambling place. Nagle's livery stable occupied the next place. Larkin's dry goods store was next. (This building still stands and if one looks closely he can still see the words on the front of the building). J. C. Veatch's Hotel and restaurant was next. East of Lincoln stood the Grand Central Hotel (now the White House) and then came the Ellsworth Reporter office. East of the Reporter office stood the courthouse and directly north the city jail. In the rear of the Grand Central was a shack that Wild Bill Hickok used as a home, living there with his wife Indian Annie, who worked as a scrub woman at the hotel. Indian Annie died in Ellsworth and was buried on the knoll east of town on what is now the golf course.

Ellsworth was progressing in another direction at this time. The citizens were not all of the type who inhabited the saloons, the gambling halls and other rough spots. There was also the progressive far-sighted builders among the people. Good schools were taken into consideration and a nice, new schoolhouse was dedicated in August of 1873 with Professor Goodwin as head. English, arithmetic, reading, writing, geography, orthography and German were taught. Teachers' Institutes were held during the school term for a period of one week. During that time the pupils were dismissed and the pay of the teachers continued.

A New School Building

The Episcopal, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches maintained organizations, with the Episcopal and Catholic groups owning buildings.

The social life in Ellsworth centered around the hotels. The Ellsworth dancing club sponsored balls in the Grand Central. Numerous dances were held at the Drovers Cottage. The Catholic church and the Masonic Order put on benefit dances. Time and talent was also spent in bringing the theater to Ellsworth. In February, the Fort Harker Cavalry boys put on an amateur play at the Drovers Cottage.

Professional talent was booked and a theatre building constructed for the purpose. It was a low, one-story building, seventy-five feet by twenty feet. The room was un-plastered and unpainted. The stage was opposite the entrance. Plain pine benches accommodated a capacity crowd of one hundred fifty persons. At the right of the entrance was a bar and on the left a monte gambling table. To the left of the stage was the box which extended outside like a bake oven, capable of holding twelve, mostly "ladies." Admission was 50 cents with the doors opening at nine.

Business was brisk during the summer of 1873. That summer, Ellsworth was called the liveliest town on the plains. All the hotels were filled and business volume was double that of the previous year. Good order was maintained until late in the summer. The police force had been reduced and everyone was enjoying prosperity. Most of the cases appearing before Judge Osborne were drunk or disorderly violations. Billy Thompson was arrested twice that

summer. Coming before the court for the prosecution was Sheriff Whitney and Henry Inman, noted writer and newspaper man was the defense. On this last account, Billy was charged with carrying a six-shooter and being drunk. After hearing the evidence, Judge Osborne fined Billy Thompson 25 dollars and he was released.

Although the weekly paper came out with the headline "All is quiet in Ellsworth," yet in a few short days a burst of tempers brought on a tragedy that Ellsworth could not live down.

WYATT EARP

The Old West has been brought back to life again in Ellsworth with the celebration of its 90th anniversary. One of the men who brought notoriety and fame to Ellsworth was Wyatt Earp. This famous frontier marshall has been the subject of many wild and wooly tales originating in the cowtowns of Ellsworth, Wichita and Dodge City. It was in Ellsworth that Earp made his start as a peace officer and from then on his fame grew far and wide.

When the cattle trade moved from Abilene to Ellsworth in 1873, due to drouth conditions, lower quality of range grass in that part of the State, and the panic of 1873 which affected the cattle market, Ellsworth became the shipping point where cattle might fatten on free grass while awaiting sale. The people of Abilene did not want the Texas cattle trade because of the fear of Texas fever, and much farm land was fenced to prevent the herds from moving freely.

In August, 150,000 head of cattle were grazing on the prairies around Ellsworth, awaiting shipment to the eastern markets. Fifteen hundred cowboys, with little

to do, and money jingling in their pockets, added to a town full of gamblers, thieves, harlots and gunmen easily explain why Ellsworth became the wildest cowtown in the West. Under the heading "State News" a Kansas newspaper stated: "As we go to press, Hell is still in session in Ellsworth."

The arrival of Ben and Billy Thompson, notorious gamblers and gunmen from Abilene, set the stage for one of the most exciting episodes in the history of the Wild West. The Thompsons moved from town to town with shifts of the cattle trade and opened faro banks and arrogated to themselves the rule of life in that town. Their frontier-wide reputations as man-killers were seldom resented openly.

For two months in the summer of 1873, Ben Thompson, with headquarters at the Grand Central Hotel, where he operated his faro bank, defied Ellsworth law. Fist-fights, gun-fights, and drunken brawls were an hourly occurrence, day and night with the Thompsons the leading spirit of the lawless.

Thus it was when Wyatt Earp came to Ellsworth. A profitable business deal with the hide buyers in Caldwell netted him several thousand dollars and Wyatt came to Ellsworth with the idea of investing in the cattle business. From experienced cattlemen he soon learned that the cow business was too upset by the money panic to make a profitable investment, so he decided to hunt buffalo another season. Meanwhile, he witnessed numerous gunfights in the streets and saloons and noted with amusement the manner in which Ellsworth took cover before the Texas men.

August 15, 1873, started as a

quiet day in Ellsworth. Wyatt lounged beneath the wooden awning which shaded Beebe's General Store and Brennan's Saloon next door. In a saloon beyond Brennan's a poker game was in progress with stakes unusually high, and Ben and Billy Thompson were attracted enough to leave their faro game. Both were forcing the play and Billy was drinking heavily. A wild uproar was followed by the appearance of the brother, shouting wildly as they headed for the Grand Central for their guns. They soon appeared armed with a double-barreled shotgun and a rifle, and shouted threats from in front of the saloon to those inside. Wyatt stepped into Beebe's doorway for cover as Sheriff Whitney hurried over from his store to check on the trouble. John Sterling, a gambler, had slapped Billy Thompson's face—Billy got nasty and John hit him with the flat of his hand on the mouth. Billy invited John to get his guns and meet him outside; John hit him again and knocked him down. It was then that Ben and Billy went for their guns. Unarmed, Sheriff Whitney met them to stop the fight. Told to keep out of it, the Sheriff went into the saloon to talk to John Sterling. Sterling's friends forced him to stay out of the fight and hurried him out the back door. Whitney faced the Thompsons again and after some discussion, invited them into Brennan's for a drink. Shortly he came out alone and informed Wyatt they had quieted down a bit. Just then Billy staggered out of Brennan's with Ben's shotgun and fired point-blank at Whitney. The charge hit the sheriff in the arm and chest. (Whitney died three days later and was buried in the Ellsworth cemetery.)

At the roar of gunfire, several hundred men filled the Ellsworth plaza (the area south of the tracks between Douglas and Lincoln) mostly gun-toting Texas men and friends of the Thompsons. Ben and Billy headed for the Grand Central across the tracks, and the Texans rallied behind them. Not an Ellsworth peace officer was in sight. Billy got on a horse and rode slowly out of town, cursing and inviting a fight.

Quoting the Ellsworth Reporter: 'Ben Thompson retained his arms for a full hour after this and no attempt was made to disarm him. Mayor Miller was at his residence—During this hour, where were the police? No arrest had been made and the street was full of armed men ready to defend Thompson. The police were arming themselves, and, as they claim, just ready to rally out and take alive or dead the violators of the law. They were loading their muskets, just as the mayor, impatient at the delay in making arrests, came along and discharged the whole force. It would have been better to have increased the force and discharge or retained the old police after quiet had been restored. The mayor acted promptly and according to his judgment, but we certainly think it was a bad move. A poor police is better than none, and if, as they claim, they were just ready for work, they should have had a chance to redeem themselves and the honor of the city. Thus the city was left without a police, with no one but Deputy Sheriff Hogue to make arrests.'

Mayor Miller, having discharged the police, shouted across the plaza to Thompson to lay down his arms. A roar of profanity and gleeful whoops were Miller's an-

swer. Ellsworth was treed and treed but right.

Wyatt Earp made a passing remark to the mayor about his police force, adding that it was none of his business but if it was, he'd arrest Thompson or kill him. Mayor Miller angrily grabbed the badge from Brocky Jack's shirt front and gave it to Earp with the remark, "I'll make it your business. You are marshall of Ellsworth. I order you to arrest Ben Thompson"! Earp went into Beebe's store and got a pair of second-hand forty-fives, loaded the weapons and started across the plaza toward Thompson. His hands swung low and close to his holsters. As Wyatt reached a point fifty yards away, Thompson squared around, shifted his shotgun across his stomach, his hand on the grip and trigger. He was in position to make the play. Earp had a definite plan of action in mind, too. Before he started he knew he was in no danger from the wild Texans backing Thompson as they would hold back for Thompson to make his move. Wyatt knew too, that at that range he could kill Thompson or back him down. As Wyatt neared to 40 yards, Ben spoke out with: "What do you want, Wyatt?" "I want you Ben," Earp replied. Thompson said he'd rather talk than fight which is the gravest mistake possible for a gunfighter to make. Earp knew he had him. "I'll get you either way, Ben. Throw your shotgun down and put up your hands!" commanded Earp. Thompson threw down his gun and Wyatt led him to Judge Osborn's court. When asked what the charges were, Mayor Miller in a rather embarrassed statement offered, "disturbing the peace." Judge Osborn fined Thompson

twenty-five dollars and returned his guns.

Wyatt Earp returned the badge to Mayor Miller on being offered the job of marshall of Ellsworth at one hundred twenty-five dollars a month with the now famous remark: "Ellsworth figures sheriffs at twenty-five dollars a head. I don't think the town's my size." Quoting Stuart N. Lake in his book, *Frontier Marshall*: "This act opened a new era in Kansas cowtown history and although the facts were not recorded, yet, Earp, in this bold move established himself for all time as one of the greatest gunfighters and marshalls of the Old West." Old timers said that Earp looked like a boy, twenty-five years old, six feet tall with lean muscles, clean shaven and tanned, as he stalked across the tracks toward Thompson.

The Wyatt Earp story has been disproved by some writers, mainly, because there is no newspaper record of the account, but many instances led to the fact that it did happen. In those days newspapers did not write up many of the killings because the good people did not want, or care for that kind of news. Further, Earp was rather a stranger in town, and lastly, many of the arrests and fines were not recorded in the court records. It has been said of the Ellsworth law that many of the fines paid by the arrested did not reach the treasury.

Bat Masterson of Dodge City, while writing for the *Morning Telegraph* in New York, told this story to Stuart Lake: "Later, talking with Ben Thompson, I asked him why he submitted to Earp and Ben replied: 'I wasn't afraid of him but I didn't want to die just then. I knew he'd go through with his play.'"

Shortly after this episode, Earp left for Wichita where he became marshall on the strength of his action in Ellsworth. Later he moved to Dodge City and finally to Tombstone, Arizona.

The shotgun, with which Whitney was shot was later left by Thompson with Chalk Beeson in Dodge City, obtaining a loan of \$50.00 from Beeson. He never returned for the gun and it is now on display in the Beeson Museum in Dodge City.

It might be of interest to know that Billy Thompson was brought to Ellsworth for his trial in 1877. The proceedings lasted nine days and the jury, after deliberating one hour, returned a verdict of "not guilty." This was one of the costliest trials in Ellsworth history.

ELLSWORTH SURVIVES TRAGEDY

The year 1874 was more remarkable for disasters than progress. That was the year of the grasshopper raid, the effect of which was felt by the merchants of Ellsworth. During July and August, the pests came out of the northwest and destroyed all of the growing crops. Conditions got so bad that the settlers who had homesteaded in the county were completely wiped out and had to send to the State for assistance. Clothes and food rations were sent out to help.

Also in August another destructive conflagration nearly destroyed the town. This was the second big fire in Ellsworth, which swept the entire block east of Douglas between Main and First streets and some building on North Main. (The first fire, in 1869, destroyed the whole block east of Lincoln and north of Main.) No sooner had the debris been cleared when preparation for the erection

new buildings was made and new business houses appeared on North Main from Douglas eastward; the new Seitz Drug store on the corner (now Helwick Motor Co.), Schmidt's boot and shoe store; Z. Jackson and Leo Herzog were built.

The Cattle Business Fades

Another disaster soon followed. Ellsworth had prospered from the cattle trade. Money flowed freely and the people were happy. Then came the crash. The financial dream burst. Buyers became fewer because of the crop failure. Financial reverses which had wiped out some very important banks in the East, paralyzed business in Kansas. Cattlemen, unable to borrow money, threw more and more cattle on the open market, demoralizing the industry and breaking the price. Drovers, traders and hippers lost money and went bankrupt. Great numbers of cattle were put into winter quarters on the grass around Ellsworth. Thousands were killed for their tallow. To make conditions worse, a new market for Texas cattle opened up in Wichita, which was at least 100 miles closer than coming to Ellsworth. The citizens did make a supreme effort to hold the trade by extensive advertising. With the help of the Kansas Pacific Railroad Abel H. (Shanghai) Pierce part owner of the Rancho Grande in Texas was persuaded to bring his herd to Ellsworth. By May, Ellsworth had 43,572 longhorns in the vicinity. But the effort was not enough and Wichita took the trade, the toughs and some of the merchants. By 1875 Ellsworth had ceased to be a cattle shipping center. The stockyards stood a few years and were removed.

The dangerous element having been removed, the town settled

down to peace and quietness; and if the merchants did not take in quite as many dollars, they, the citizens generally, breathed a purified moral atmosphere.

The worst had not come yet, for another blow befell the city in November 1875, in the form of another destructive fire which carried away the entire block on South Main running west from Douglas. Up to this time the main business district was south of the tracks and when this principal business street was gutted the merchants moved north of the tracks where they re-established themselves, chiefly on Douglas Avenue. The corner where the Citizens State Bank now stands housed the Powers Bank. Next came a grocery owned by I. W. Phelps; the next Larkin's dry goods, and the fourth was Bell's hardware. These four buildings constituted one of the most substantial and neatest blocks in Central Kansas.

The year 1876 was one of substantial improvements, experience having taught the people that wooden buildings were the poorest kind of protection against fire. The fires of 1869, 1874 and 1875, by which property to the amount of \$100,000.00 was destroyed, gave them a lesson of which they took advantage, and the result was that good, substantial business houses were erected of either brick or stone. Three times during its short existence had Ellsworth been fire-tried, and yet a fourth one was close at hand. In March 1877, another fire visited the town, carrying away the only remaining block that stood south of the tracks. This was located between Douglas and Lincoln avenues, but the fire made quick work of it and a reminder of it can still be seen in some of the stone walls that stand south of the tracks.

It appears that Ellsworth from its beginning was truly a "city of tragedies" but was able to overcome all of these hardships to remain in existence. The fires changed the structure of the town from the south side of the tracks to its present location. The year 1877 was one of great improvement.

J. Beebe built a very fine two-story building which is still standing in the middle of the block on North Main, now owned by Ike Hall. A similar building was built nearby, by F. Bornschien which was used as a bakery. Arthur Larkin built the Golden Belt Grain elevator which was operated by steam power. Ellsworth was now commencing to bear a citified appearance and to assume an air of solidarity and healthful prosperity. With this steady growth the churches and schools came in for their part. The writer will give a complete history of the schools and churches in succeeding articles so this information will be passed by for the present.

Ellsworth continued to grow through the years 1878 and '79. A third hotel, the American House, was added by Arthur Larkin to the already existing Grand Central and Drovers Cottage. In 1879 the only flouring mill in the county, built by Everett and Foster in 1876, burned to the ground. This was really a blow 'o the community as the farmers had to take their grists to other counties to be ground. Shortly after the fire, a company was formed and a mill was rebuilt, known as the Foster Mill. Getty and Larkin built a more extensive one in the west part of town, which was operated by steam power. The mill had five runs of stone, and made flour by the roller process. The capacity of this mill was 150 barrels of flour daily.

In 1881, the Ellsworth Sugar Works Company was formed and an extensive sugar mill was erected in the west part of town. It was operated by steam power and gave employment to seventy-five hands. In 1882, 30,000 gals. of pure amber cane syrup was produced.

Another trend toward progress was the interest in agriculture. The county population had increased due to the arrival of immigrants—consisting chiefly of Swedes who settled in the southeastern part of the county; the Bohemians in the western part, in and around Wilson, and the Germans in the southern and northern portions.

The emigrants were advised to come in the spring if they had no money, otherwise they should come in the fall. In February, the farm work began. The ground was prepared for spring wheat, and in May the corn ground was prepared and planted. The demand was greatest for manual laborers. It was hard work to open and develop a new farm in Ellsworth County. Land had to be improved after the first payment of \$96 had been made to the Kansas Pacific railroad. This consisted of one-fifth of the purchase price. Next of importance was a shelter usually dug in a convenient bank, or as is called a dug-out, or a sod house or log cabin. Also a barn for the horses or mules, and finally the problem of fencing. Barb wire was not sold in the United States until 1874, so most fences were made of rails even though wood was very scarce. In the eastern part of the county, many fences were made of piled-up rock. Water was also a problem for those not close to a stream and so windmills came into existence. Sod-breaking operations

were difficult and special plows were used to withstand the pull of two or three horses to break the tough buffalo grass. All of this hard work went into the making of a new home in the wilderness and it required lots of fortitude and sacrifice by these new people to carve out a home for their families, willing to labor from dawn until dusk, doing their chores by lantern light.

The wants and necessities of all these settlers formed a source of income to the business men in Ellsworth. The greater the population, the greater the need for groceries and staples. The more numerous the farms, the more sales of farm machinery and equipment. Thus it was that the county prospered. The bountiful crops of 1882 bettered the conditions for the settlers and immense benefits came to those engaged in mercantile pursuits.

The county also had superior advantages of stock raising and in 1880 many stockmen came into the county and bought up large tracts of land, mainly in the eastern part, establishing large ranches—in many cases buying out the settlers who then moved out of the county to make new homes.

A little touch of folk lore may be added here in the form of a story showing the frugality of the foreign people. It is said that Jon and his wife, living in Czechoslovakia decided to come to America to make a new home in the "Land of Opportunity". As he was a breeder of geese, they brought with them some breeding stock and settled on a claim in Ellsworth county. After the dugout was complete and a home established, Jon came to Ellsworth and obtained a whiskey barrel which

he took home and sawed in half to form two watering tubs for the geese. Naturally, when filled with water the whiskey-soaked tubs gave forth a new solution which the geese drank and passed out. Jon's wife looked out in the yard, saw the geese, and thinking them dead, she and Jon plucked all the feathers for feather ticks, thus enabling them to salvage something from their stock.

Next morning, looking out in the yard, they saw the geese walking around, cold and pimpled. They brought them into the dugout where they wrapped them in clothing to keep them warm and took care of them until new down and feathers grew back. Thus they gained the feathers for their bedding and were able to keep their geese for breeding. There is no moral to the story, but that is the origin of the term "goose pimples" when one gets chilled and cold.

ELLSWORTH PROGRESSES

Through the late seventies and early eighties Ellsworth and vicinity made definite progress. In Ellsworth new streets were laid out and improved, beautiful homes were built, business places added and improved, and Ellsworth truly became civilized. Agricultural products showed a marked increase, 17,000 bushels of wheat were harvested in 1875. This increased to 598,000 by 1880. Wool clipped in 1878 amounted to 13,500 pounds, and \$33,000 was spent for agricultural implements. Wages were as follows: Farm labor, 15 to 25 dollars per month. City labor was \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. Skilled labor ran from 2 to 3 dollars per day. Store clerks drew \$50 to \$75 per month.

Ranching Grows
A change in the structure of the

county took place at about this time. Through eastern money interests, several large ranches were opened, affecting the population since many settlers were bought out. The "Elkhorn Ranch" owned by H. C. Adams, contained 4,000 acres, on which grazed 5,000 sheep. The ranch was well supplied with sheds and buildings. The "Eden Ranch" on the Smoky, owned by a Mr. Collins, contained 9,000 acres, all under fence, and well stocked with cattle. "Idaville Ranch", on Bluff creek and the Smoky, owned by Capt. Millett, had 18,000 acres, also all under fence. There were 5,000 head of cattle on this ranch. "White Bluffs Ranch" on the Smoky, owned by Richardson & Bates, contained 3,000 acres on which were 3,000 head of cattle. "Black Walnut Ranch" on Thompson Creek, consisted of 5,500 acres and was owned by H. B. Clark. This ranch grazed 7,000 sheep and several hundred cattle. "Monte Carlo Ranch" located on Mulberry and Alum creeks, contained 7,000 acres and was owned by Mr. Wellington. This ranch was stocked with 9,000 sheep. The ranch was highly improved. It was all under fence and \$16,000 was spent in the erection of sheds and buildings. The residence alone cost \$8,000. These ranches constituted about one-tenth of the entire county area, excluding several more ranches that ranged from 1,000 to 2,000 acres. The greatest concentration of land under one name came in 1893, with the formation of the Sherman Ranch by Lewis H. Lapham. It consisted of 25,000 acres with another 25,000 of leased land, including the Burton ranch. This tract made the Sherman Ranch one of the largest in the State of Kansas.

Coal Mined Near by

Another boom to Ellsworth was the discovery of coal within the county's boundaries. Where a country is so destitute for timber as was Ellsworth County, no happier discovery could have been made, and none of greater value to the people, or from which greater benefits could flow. By this discovery, fuel was brought within easy reach of a great many settlers, and within a reasonable distance to all, at reasonable rates and in sufficient quantity to meet all home demands. Seven banks were worked with a considerable degree of success. Three of these banks were located immediately south of Wilson, in the bluffs south of the Smoky. These banks were located within a distance of one-half mile. One of them was owned by the Kansas Pacific Railway company, but was leased to and operated by John Balridge. The output of this bank, in 1882 was about 2,000 tons. Another of those banks was operated by the Smoky Hill Coal Company, composed of Messrs. Eckert, Hines and Latshaw. The product of this bank in 1882 was 1,500 tons, valued at \$4,500.00. The wages paid to employees engaged by this company were \$3,500.00. The third of these banks was owned by H. Carhartt, but was operated by Jacob Sackman. The output from this bank in 1882 was not as large as that of either of the others—an approximate estimate setting it down at 1,200 tons.

The next bank in point of importance was that of L. H. Westerman, located on Elkhorn Creek, about nine miles from Ellsworth. The product of this bank, in 1882, was 1,000 tons and gave employment to 30 men. Another bank, not so well developed, was work-

ed by J. D. Sibley, on Spring Creek, about three miles west of the east line of the county. In 1882 it yielded 200 tons; and another bank, operated by J. Shoemaker, in the northeastern portion of the county, yielded a similar amount.

The quality of the coal mined was rather inferior, although it burned freely and answered admirably for fuel. The method pursued in mining was rather primitive, being that system known as drifting or digging in from the face of the bluffs. No shafts were sunk, and no machinery used. All the work was done by manual labor. The coal ran from two to two and a half feet in thickness.

The Salt Mining Industry

Of great importance to Ellsworth County was the discovery of salt in 1887. James Cowie, Sr. was one of the first promoters of rock-salt mining in Kansas. Before coming to the state he was a mining engineer in the Pennsylvania coal fields, and was considered one of the most efficient engineers in the country. He came to Kanopolis in 1890 and commenced sinking a shaft for the Royal Salt Company. The plant was completed and put in operation in 1891, and Mr. Cowie continued as superintendent for a number of years. Associated with him were his two sons, Daniel and George.

The Crystal Salt Company was organized in 1906 and James Cowie resigned his post with the Royal to promote and supervise the construction of the building and the sinking of the shaft. Lump and crushed salt were produced in 1908. Cowie remained with the company until his death in 1911.

A Chicago syndicate organized

the Independent Salt Company in 1913 with D. B. Cowie as superintendent. The shaft was sunk in 1913 and the plant put in operation in 1914.

At Ellsworth a different method of obtaining salt was used. A well was drilled, the rock-salt stratum found at 650 feet with an average thickness of 185 feet. The brine was forced to the surface and moisture evaporated leaving the salt. The Ellsworth Salt Company was organized in 1902 with H. Work, president, J. R. McLaurin, vice-pres., George Tremble, secretary; B. S. Westfall, treasurer and E. S. Moore, manager. Work on the plant began in 1903, and operation began that same year. It consisted of four large steam grainers, with a producing capacity of 500 barrels of salt per day, and a complete dairy mill for manufacturing table and dairy salt. The plant was operated steadily until 1909 and then only part time to 1913.

Another great boom to Ellsworth county came in recent years when oil was discovered. The first well completed as a producer was on the E. H. Heiken farm, February 23, 1933. From this discovery the oil wealth in the county grew to a peak of 10 million dollars from 702 wells. In 1956 there were 672 producers and a valuation of 8 million.

ELLSWORTH'S LAST BIT OF VIOLENCE

In October, 1881, the entire community was startled by the news of one of the most cold blooded murders ever perpetrated in Ellsworth or any other county. The terrible tragedy was enacted in the southeast part of the county—Andrew Weir and his son, Bennie, being victims, and Lewis Rose and his wife the mur-

derers. Rose and Weir lived upon adjoining farms, and some enmity arose between them over the division of some crop, in which both were interested. This feud had existed for some time, until one day Weir went to the house of Rose, where an altercation of words arose, and as Weir started out to go home, Rose followed and shot him dead. Weir was a widower and lived with his son Bennie, a little lad about twelve years old. The boy, thinking his father was staying away unusually long, started over to the Rose place to see if he was there, and when Rose and his wife saw the lad coming, they consulted together and concluded that it was necessary to their own safety to kill the boy. When the lad reached the house and inquired for his father, Rose took him to the barn and there knocked out the innocent boy's brains with a club and threw him into a manger. After dispatching little Bennie, Rose went out to a field and dug a hole in which he buried father and son, and after covering them over with earth, he harrowed the field so as to escape detection. The neighbors, however, began to miss Weir and his son, and suspicions of foul play began to be talked in the vicinity. Finally a search was instituted, which led to a discovery of Weir and his son in the place where Rose had buried them. Rose and his wife were arrested, tried and convicted, he for murder, and she as accessory to the crime.

The trial took place in May, 1882, and both Rose and his wife were confined in the penitentiary.

The Angley Incident

Another bit of violence took place at about the same time. Living in the southeastern part of the county was a man by the

name of Phillip Angley. He lived by himself in a dugout. This kind of habitation is what constitutes the cellar of an ordinary house, or a hole dug in the ground, over which is placed a roof of prairie grass and earth. Sometimes they were only dug to a depth of three or four feet, but in such cases sod walls were built to about the same height above the ground as the depth of the dugout is below. It was in one of these abodes that Phillip Angley lived, and there his nephew Graham found him, when he came to live with him.

Angley had neither wife nor child, and before the advent of his nephew, lived in his primitive abode, solitary and alone. Uncle and nephew got along all right until January when Angley sold some land to a neighbor, taking the money he received as the purchase price with him to the dugout. It was fatal money to him, because for it, his nephew took advantage of him while he was asleep, murdered him, and after getting possession of the money, set fire to the rafters that supported the roof, and then fled toward Ellsworth. When the rafters were so weakened by the fire that they could not support the roof, all the earth on top fell into the dugout and covered up the murdered man, except his feet. In this position he was discovered a few days after by some of his neighbors who dug him out, and then it was ascertained that he had been foully murdered. Graham, the murderer, was in Ellsworth, lavishly spending the murdered man's money, when the news of the deed reached town. Suspicion instantly fell upon him as being the perpetrator of the crime, and he was lodged in jail. While in jail he was called upon

by another uncle of his, named Shaffer, to whom he made a full confession of the crime.

Hanging In Ellsworth

The following account of this affair was found in a scrapbook belonging to W. A. Gebhardt: "Dr. E. R. Lang, county physician, John Long, acting coroner, and several others were notified of the affair and at once proceeded to the farm of Mr. Angley, where a coroner's jury was empaneled, consisting of the following named citizens of this county, viz: Greeley Gilkison, Richard Simmons, William Thornbergh, David Franklin, M. Yound and H. Z. Palmer.

"After hearing the testimony of a number of witnesses, and a careful investigation of the matter the jury returned the following verdict: 'That Phillip Angley came to his death by suffocation, by his shanty taking fire on the night of the 28th of December, 1881'."

"On Sunday evening, January 1st, W. E. Graham, a nephew of the murdered man, was arrested under a complaint made by Harry Andersen, stating that he believed Graham had committed the murder. The circumstances which led to the belief are that Graham had been spending considerable money since the murder, and had told several different stories as to where he received the money that he was squandering. These things, with others, led to his arrest. When taken to jail he denied having any money, when he had not been charged with having any. He was undressed, and while the officers were taking off his clothes, he continued to say he had no money. When his last sock was taken off, \$35.00 was found in it. On Monday morning he confessed having committed the murder, and stated that he had struck his

uncle over the head with a boot tree, and then set fire to the shanty, and succeeded in burning that portion of the head upon which the blow was dealt, so it was impossible to discover how he had murdered him. The amount taken from his uncle was about \$135.00."

"It will be remembered that about the 3rd of October, Andrew Weir and his son were murdered in this county by Rose who is now confined in the Ellsworth jail, making three murders inside of 90 days, and all within a radius of four miles.

"On Monday night, at about nine o'clock, a party of two or three hundred men, supposed to have come from all parts of the county, assembled at the court house, and at a given signal by someone, a rush was made for the jail, the outer door was broken open, the sheriff and his guards overpowered and taken into custody by some of the party, the inside door was opened, then the cell door was smashed and the prisoner taken out to the first telegraph pole in front of the court house, where he was tried, found guilty and strung up by the neck until he, W. E. Graham, was dead! Dead! Dead! We hope that this will be a lesson to evil disposed persons in this community for all time to come, and that they will understand that to commit murder in Ellsworth county is certain death to the murderer.

Rose Is Spirited Away

"After Graham had been hung the mob proceeded to the jail for the purpose of taking out Rose, but found that he had been taken from his cell, and it is presumed that he has been secreted by the officers. Up to the time of going to press his whereabouts had not been discovered. All kinds of

rumors are afloat. Some think he has been found and hung, some think he is at large, and others say that he is being secreted."

The writer, having the privilege of talking with Charley Larkin about the hanging, and who, by the way was present at the time, found out from Charley that Rose was sneaked out and hidden under some hay near the tracks and taken to Hays. Mrs. Tom Beatty, who, as a girl, lived about a block away and remembers the incident, stated that the other prisoners were hidden in the cellar of John Bell's home which stood on the corner where the Messenger office is now located.

Quoting W. A. Gebhardt again: "Squire Long, acting coroner, empaneled a jury Tuesday morning consisting of the following: George Huycke, B. T. Loomis, C. F. Clark, A. W. Talksdorf, L. Crumrine, and E. V. Eby, who after hearing the testimony in the case returned the following verdict: 'We the jury, do find that W. E. Graham came to his death by strangulation through his own exertion and the assistance of parties unknown.'

Shortly after, Rose was returned and tried for murder by Judge J. H. Prescott, and the jury returned a verdict of "guilty of murder in the first degree." Here is a statement of the court, in part: "That judgment of the law which I must now pronounce, is, that you be taken from the jail of this county, and by the sheriff conveyed to the State Penitentiary, delivered to its authorities, confined at hard labor, and there upon such day as the governor of this state shall appoint, be hanged by the neck until you are dead. Mr. Sheriff, you will have charge of the prisoner, and will see that this order is executed."

The sheriff was Hamilton, father of Bruce Hamilton of Ellsworth. R. R. Lyons was county attorney and Ira E. Lloyd was defense counsel.

ELLSWORTH INSTITUTIONS

Throughout its ninety years of existence, Ellsworth has passed through several stages of development. First, an "end of track town"; then a cattle shipping center, followed by an agricultural era which made it an outstanding rural business center. It became an industrial center during the eighties and nineties. Two flour mills, the Getty and Larkin, in 1880, and the Ellsworth City Roller Mills in 1885, were operated. The Ellsworth Sugar Works was established in 1882, and a brick plant south of the river bridge, and a bottling works were in operation. The Kansas Midland Railroad (Frisco) was built to Ellsworth in 1887. The Ellsworth Salt Company, on the present site of the Western Power and Light plant, was started in 1903. It was abandoned in 1913. The City waterworks system was installed in 1886, and the Weber Mills (Central Kansas Mill and Elevator Co.) were built in 1919.

Following this period, Ellsworth fell back to depend on agriculture and through the efforts of farsighted citizens several institutions were established that now rate Ellsworth as an institutional city.

Mother Bickerdyke Home

The Mother Bickerdyke Home was opened to care for the wives and minor children of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. On the 18th day of July, 1888, Arthur Larkin conveyed by general warranty deed to the trus-

ees of the Grand Army of the Republic a quarter section of land south of town for the purpose of holding reunions of ex-Union soldiers at least once in every two years, and in case of failure to comply, the title of said land would revert to the State of Kansas to be used for charitable purposes only. A large dome-shaped building was built. Two reunions were held, one in 1890 and one in 1892. A failure on the part of the Grand Army to hold reunions after the year 1892, made it necessary to forfeit the land. On the 25th day of January, 1897, and passed to the trustees of the Women's Relief Corps. The Relief Corps maintained it as a home for Union soldiers and their families until May, 1901. By request, the Relief Corps turned the deed over to the State of Kansas and it was placed under the control of the Board of Managers of the State of Kansas State Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge. The name "Mother Bickerdyke Home" was given while the Women's Relief Corps had charge. It was named after a famous Civil War nurse. Her last days were spent at Bunker Hill, Kansas, where she died in 1901.

The Mother Bickerdyke Home remained in existence until 1952 when the remaining widows were transferred to Dodge City and the Good Samaritan Society took over. This is an organization of Christian laymen and pastors from the various Lutheran Church bodies. At present there are forty Good Samaritan Homes and hospitals being operated by the Society in ten different states. The work started in Kansas in 1951 at Olatah, and there are now five other Homes, namely: Ellsworth, St. Francis, Phillipsburg, Junction

City and Oberlin. A part of these were built by public funds and are leased by the Good Samaritan Society. The Ellsworth unit was opened September 15, 1952 with a capacity of 90. It has certainly been a credit to Ellsworth, and is ranked as one of the outstanding achievements in our community.

The Ellsworth Hospital

The Ellsworth Hospital, now the Ellsworth County Veterans Memorial Hospital, was originally connected with the establishment of the Mother Bickerdyke Home. Two outstanding physicians, of Ellsworth, Drs. Harry O'Donnell and Dr. H. Z. Hissem, rented a few rooms in the Bickerdyke barracks in 1897, where they did surgical and medical work. They had a few rooms for sick patients and another room for operating purposes, whose equipment consisted of a plain table. This was the only hospital at that time between Kansas City and Denver, known as a city hospital.

The Union Pacific hospital was a two-story house west of the Frisco Depot, operated by Dr. George Wright.

Drs. Harry O'Donnell and H. Z. Hissem, founded the Ellsworth Hospital Association in 1897, but not until 1900, when the state took over the Bickerdyke Home did they build their own building. This consisted of a 14-bed frame hospital, with a sky-lighted operating room. (Now the nurses' home).

Dr. Harry O'Donnell died in 1907, and the work of the hospital was carried on by Dr. Hissem until Dr. Alfred O'Donnell, a brother of Dr. Harry O'Donnell, located in Ellsworth and was made manager of the hospital and chief surgeon of the staff.

In 1921, a new company was organized as the Ellsworth Hospital Company and a new building was erected at a cost of \$100,000.00. This new building was a four-story fireproof brick structure of 40 beds which stood as a monument to its builders until 1952 when an addition was made and the name changed to the Ellsworth County Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Clair O'Donnell joined the hospital staff in 1919 and became chief of staff following the retirement of Dr. Alfred O'Donnell.

In 1926 the hospital at the Mother Bickerdyke Home was dedicated. It remains in use today as a home for the aged operated by the Good Samaritan Society.

St. Francis Boys' Home

Another institution of great importance to Ellsworth is the St. Francis Boys' Home. The first home was established by the Rev. Robert Mize in 1945. Quoting Father Bob: "It was established as a younger-than-college age fraternity for the primary purpose of helping boys who had faced the police. The boys are in public life and in public schools as a part of the therapy of rehabilitation.

"Despite its special interest in the boy offender, St. Francis selects its boys carefully. Out of 243 applications in 1956, only 27 were accepted for admission in the two homes. Admission is determined clinically through child specialists and with special care in selecting only those boys who are adaptable to the public school program.

"The Home saw stormy days at first. In 18 months, 19 boys reverted to some type of public disorder and were removed to industrial schools. The next year only four reverted; in the next two

years, none. The many who have made good at St. Francis had 'made good' afterward.

"The Ellsworth Home was instituted when a \$10,000 option to purchase the county property, formerly the Old People's Home, was given by the commissioners. Later it was found necessary legally to have the approval of the voters and the sale by closed bid. The voters said "no" in 1947 and "yes" in 1948. Rival bidders raised the price of \$13,000 and the property, consisting of 90 acres, was purchased in 1949. A staff residence was acquired by the purchase of an adjoining 120 acres. In 1957, an activities building, O'Donnell Hall, was erected at a cost of \$85,000."

Today, St. Francis consists of two homes, one at Ellsworth and one at Bavaria. In 1956 these two homes had 66 boys. The Rev. Peter Francis, the first dean of Boys at Bavaria, has been the Dean of Boys at Ellsworth since 1951. Total assets have increased from \$13,000 to \$377,691.00 in 1956. The homes accept donations as the source of 80 percent of their operating income. St. Francis has become known from coast to coast.

HISTORY OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

A history of Ellsworth and Ellsworth County would not be complete without the development of the educational interests of the people. No sooner had a settlement been established, plans for teaching the children were made and even though no central building was available, the children would gather at one of the homes and be given training to the best ability of one of the mothers. As permanent settlements came into existence, schoolhouses were erected for the accomodation of

the children in the neighborhood. Except for the school at Ellsworth, the schools in the county were all located on the prairie, without a tree to shelter them from the storms of winter, or protect the children, in their minutes of amusement, from the burning sun of summer. They stood, naked and exposed, a great many of them without even a fence.

First At Thompson Creek

The first school in Ellsworth County was a dugout on the bank of Thompson Creek near the Hudson homestead. It was started in 1866 and taught by Rachel White. The district was organized in 1867 and in that same year the school was moved to a dugout on the Scats place and taught by Maggie Hudson. Due to Indian scares the site was again changed and a log cabin, seventeen feet by seventeen feet, was built on a promontory east of Thompson Creek in 1868. The first classes were taught by Maggie Hudson. One of the students was a 27-year-old negro by the name of Hamilton Harvey.

School terms were not continuous due to the irregularity of funds raised by the district. In 1875 John Conners taught for \$25.00 a month and in 1879 the school was closed due to the lack of funds. Classes were discontinued permanently in the log cabin in 1881, and the District 2 school was erected. As one drives today on the road past the Buckeye Church and continues south several miles to the road that goes to the west shore of Kanopolis Lake, by continuing south about a half mile, the remains of the log cabin can still be seen from the road as one looks west toward Thompson Creek.

First School In Ellsworth

The first school in the city of Ellsworth was a small frame building south of the tracks, built prior to 1868 and taught by a Mr. Wellington. In 1869, a small stone schoolhouse was erected on the southwest corner of the present grade school grounds. This was the first permanent school in Ellsworth. By 1873 this small school building proved inadequate and \$9,000.00 in bonds was voted for the erection of a new school. It was a two-story brick building surmounted by a cupola, and contained six rooms. The old building was used as a primary. The new school stood in the center of the block now occupied by the elementary building. It was ready for use for the term in 1875. In 1898 this building was replaced by the Fairchild building as we remember it today, and later an addition was made in 1912. This building was recently replaced by the present Elementary School building.

The Silverwood High school was built in 1917 and additional facilities were completed in 1956. Ellsworth also had an east and west primary and for a time, a two-story frame building on the northeast corner of the grade school block was used for the grades.

First School In Wilson

In the fall of 1871 Bosland was laid out as a townsite. The originators of the town were impressed with the idea that it would be a great cattle shipping center and thus named it after the genus "Bos", meaning "cow." The name was later changed to Wilson, named after Isaac Wilson, who came to Kansas from Iowa and traded his Iowa land for the Jellison homestead. Early in 1872 steps were taken to erect a schoolhouse.

It was partly blown down by a windstorm and work upon it was not resumed until 1874, when a very fine stone building was erected in the southeast part of town. It was surmounted by a cupola. It had only two rooms, one above and one below. It was used only by pupils well advanced in their studies; the others attended school in another building nearby. When more capable, these pupils were then allowed to attend the "Higher school."

First School In Kanopolis

The first school in Kanopolis was organized in 1889. The school building was located on Block 88, purchased from the Kanopolis Land Co. The plans were drawn by the celebrated architect, Arthur Peabody of Wichita. It was a large three-story brick structure, trimmed with red and white brick which were made in Kanopolis. The main building was about 32 feet by 76 feet, and the building in the rear was 25 feet by 38 feet. There were seven classrooms with wardrobes in each. In the basement was the furnace and storage room. The total height of the tower of the building was 88 feet. Taking it all in all, it was the largest and most complete school and the finest public building in Ellsworth County.

Quoting from the one-time Kanopolis Journal, May 24, 1890: "While having a beautiful school building, we have also a good school under the excellent management of Prof. James T. Nolan. Our school has been thoroughly graded and classified, and is doing as good work as any other school in the county. To prove this, we need only add that the following named pupils of the school attended and passed the teachers' examination, which was

held at Ellsworth on April 26: Maud Farris, Minnie Harkness, Lunda Adams, Lawrence McKeever and Allen Kreider. This, we think, is sufficient proof of the school's proficiency."

The Holyrood School

The original Holyrood settlement was located about one-half mile south of the present business district. With the construction of the railroad to that point in 1886, the town moved and developed near the tracks. Holyrood was incorporated as a city in 1901.

The town received its name after a castle in Scotland. When the Corrigan family came to the vicinity from Canada, remembering the name of a city in Canada which was named for the castle in Scotland, they called the settlement "Holyrood". An old timer told the story that the sign on the depot read "Holyrood" until a letter "L" was blown off in a windstorm. Since that time the name has been Holyrood.

The first school was a frame structure opened in September, 1895, with grades one to nine. Walter Maze was the principal. In 1906 a new two-story brick building was erected. Holyrood Rural High School was founded in 1920.

First School In Lorraine

The first school in the Lorraine vicinity was District 26, organized in 1880. The town site of Lorraine was developed in 1888. It was named for Lorraine Stanley, daughter of a Frisco railroad official of Wichita. Lorraine has the distinction of having the first consolidated grade school in Kansas, and west of the Mississippi River. Mr. Fairchild, county superintendent, made a trip to Topeka to have the legislature pass a special bill to make consolidation

possible. The people built a central school building and transported the pupils to school in horse-drawn buses. The date, June 8, 1898, appears on the cornerstone of the present grade school building.

First School At Carneiro

The first school house, a fine stone building was located approximately one mile southeast of the present townsite of Carneiro. The first meeting to organize a school was held on October 23, 1876. The settlers met in the section house of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, known then as the Alum Creek Station. Classes were first held on September 10, 1877, with Mary Sullivan as teacher. Her salary was \$20.00 per month for a three-month term.

A new two-story frame building was built on the present school site in Carneiro in 1885. The present day school, with an enrollment of eighteen, was built in 1916.

The name Alum Creek Station was later changed to Carneiro, which means "sheepfold", since large number of sheep were shipped from the extensive ranches in the eastern part of the county.

St. Paul's Parochial School

The first parish school in Ellsworth County was the David's Star Church School, now named St. Paul's Christian Day School, and located north of Ellsworth. School was taught in the church building which was erected in 1878 by Rev. Emil Maehr. There were 25 children in attendance. To avoid heating the entire building during the winter months, the members constructed a movable partition which was used to seal off part of the building while it was used as a school. A few strong men removed this before

every service and replaced it after the worship hour.

St. Peter's Parochial School

In 1883, the St. Peter's Christian Day School was organized. The first classes were taught by Rev. William Slach. The church, which was located a mile east of Holyrood, was used for classrooms with fifteen children enrolled. Later, a building was erected next to the church, which was used for a school. This building was later moved into town. The present school was built in 1952. Attendance at St. Peter's has varied through the years from nine to sixty pupils.

To give the full history of the schools of Ellsworth County would make this article too comprehensive, so the writer has chosen the year 1882 as a yardstick to compare with the present time.

There were, in the county, sixty-six school houses, of which one was brick, twenty were stone, and forty-five frame. The school population in 1882, ages five to twenty-one, was 2,971; of this number 2,193 were enrolled in school with an average daily attendance of 1,465. The total number of teachers required to supply the schools was eighty-two, but only sixty-two were employed. Forty of them were females and twenty-two were males. The average salary paid to males was \$25.73 per month and females received \$19.72. The receipts for all school purposes for the county were \$17,137.82, of which \$15,878.64 was expended.

Although a steady growth had taken place from the early days to 1881, the following year showed a decrease of nearly 100 persons of school age. This was accounted for by the fact that a number of buyers moved into the

county with the idea of establishing large ranches, who bought out the settlers, causing them to move away to other counties. These transactions took place chiefly in the eastern part of the county. Two school districts with a pupil enrollment of fifty were completely wiped out.

By this time Ellsworth had forgotten its turbulent past and the county settled down to a steady existence, marked only by the occasional Kansas drought which affected agriculture and business in general. The schools continued to grow and now rank among the best in the state. Thus, we bring to a close the factual story of the schools in Ellsworth County.

CHURCHES

Co-incident with the founding of Ellsworth, religion gained an immediate foothold in the new town. The Church of the Holy Apostles was the first church built in Ellsworth. Judge Miller, the first mayor, was a devout churchman. Through his efforts, an organization was formed to build an Episcopal church, which would meet the needs of those who needed a place of worship. With the assistance of friends in the East, townsmen, and officers of Fort Harker, a neat frame church was built in 1870 on the site now occupied by the F. & M. Drug store. It was furnished by contributions from friends. The furnishings consisted of an altar and pulpit, a silver communion set, baptismal font made of native stone, and an organ and chairs. Judge Miller conducted services as lay reader and Bishop Vail, chaplain of Fort Harker, conducted the spiritual services.

Fire Destroys Building

In 1874 the section of the town occupied by the church was swept by fire and the church and its

contents were destroyed except for the chalice, organ and font. No more services were held for several years. Meanwhile the Roman Catholics built a church, followed by the Presbyterians and later the Methodist. The Baptists and Lutherans were also represented by congregations as shown by the following membership lists of 1887: Baptist, 75; Lutheran, 100; Episcopal, 9; Methodist, 112; Presbyterian, 75; Catholic, 300.

Continuing a brief history of the Episcopal, the record shows that the congregation shrank to a mere few by 1878. There were several members of the Church of England in the county, and although distances were great and travel difficult, these members joined with the Episcopal group, among them E. S. Root and family, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weightman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jennings, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Wellington, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Donnell and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Clark and family, and Mrs. Alfred Johnson and family.

During the eighties services were held in the Presbyterian and Methodist churches by traveling clergymen. Bishop Thomas, who replaced Bishop Vail, prepared and confirmed a class in the old court house in 1888. Services were also held in the Masonic hall, and later in the new courthouse.

In 1893 the Episcopals rented the Lutheran church which was then unoccupied. Bishop Thomas held his last service in this church in 1895. He became ill and died a few days later. Arch Deacon Watkins came to Ellsworth in 1896 and it was through his efforts and energy that the present stone church was erected. The cornerstone was laid in 1897. The

first resident minister was the Rev. Wm. Chauncey Emhardt, who came from Germantown, Pennsylvania. It was in 1924 that the Parish House was added to the church. It was built of the same native standstone—obtained when the old city water tower was taken down.

The only memento of the first Episcopal church is the font which is today found on the present church.

First Catholic Church

The Arthur Larkin family was the first Catholic family in Ellsworth. Previous to 1873, the Catholics held services in the stone schoolhouse. In 1873, property for a church building was deeded by Perry Hodgden to Rt. Rev. D. B. Meigs, on Second Street and Lincoln, for \$25.00. A frame church was built, and across the street a small parsonage—on the site of what is now the Grubb Funeral Home. The church stood where the library is now located.

Following is a quote from the first article in the first issue of "Estension" the Catholic Monthly Magazine: "I know a little 'shanty' in the West, patched and desolate, through whose creaks and cracks the blizzard moans and chills, cellarless, stairless and dreary. Built on low prairie ground, the excuse for a garden about it floods with water when the rains come, so that the tumbling old fence with its network of weeds, falling, fails to hide the heartbreaking desolation. The 'shanty' has three rooms, the first a combination office, library and bedroom. In one corner is a folding bed, in another a desk, and another, curtained off with cheap print, is an improvised wardrobe. Against one wall stands a poor bookcase, while a few chairs are

scattered about. The next room is also a combination, this time for eating and sleeping. A table is against one wall, a bed is in the corner, and nearby are a wash-stand and chair. Back of all this is the third room, kitchen, coalbin and utility.

"Across the street stands a shaky, once white building, surmounted by a cross, the only sign of its high mission. The steps shake when you mount them. The floor trembles as you tread. The rough unsightly pews are the acme of discomfort, and a house painter's desecrating brush has touched the altar and the Holy of Holies. No vestry. The confessional is literally a box. The vestments are few and tattered."

Under these conditions Father Fogarty worked to set the ground work for the largest religious group in Ellsworth. This church was used until 1905. In May, 1909, lots in Butler's Addition were purchased and the present church was built. The rectory was built in 1909 and the new church was dedicated October 20, 1911. Father J. Luckey was the builder of this church, and remained until 1913. He was succeeded by Father James Bradley who remained until 1927, going to Junction City. Rex. Eugene Teahan replaced him and remained until 1950. Rev. Thomas Langeran offered his first mass June 26, 1950 and is today serving his church and community with the same vigor as exemplified by the early pioneers.

Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian church of Ellsworth was organized on the 19th day of January, 1873, under the ministry of the Rev. Levi Sternberg. There were twelve members. Dr. Sternberg as a college professor of German descent.

He was originally a Lutheran, but had adapted himself to the religious needs and preference of the people he found in his new surroundings. Before organizing the church at Ellsworth he had established a congregation on Thompson Creek. He served as pastor of the Ellsworth church for four years and was succeeded by a Rev. H. C. Miller and Mr. N. E. Williams, who served for only a few months. Dr. Sternberg was again called as minister for a period of four more years and it was during this ministry that the first church building was erected. The congregation had first worshipped in the Episcopal church and after it burned services were held in the stone schoolhouse, latter in Larkin's Hall, then Jackson's Hall, and finally in the courthouse until the frame church was built on Second Street, just west of the present Lambert Lumber Company.

Lots in Block 39 were purchased for \$58.00 and the building was completed in 1878. This building, a one-room, stove-heated frame structure, housed all the activites until 1904 when a room was added to accommodate the Sunday School.

The church continued to grow, and in 1911 plans for a new church were made. The present church was started in 1912 and dedicated in 1913. The church has assumed an important position in Ellsworth, the growth reflecting the ambitious spirit of its people. Today the membership numbers 502.

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church began its program of evangelism and christian education in 1872. The early congregations held services in the small stone school house, and later in a room over Beebe's store.

In 1882, Rev. McDonnell was pastor and under his leadership the plans were made to erect a church building. In 1883 subscriptions amounting to \$1,000 were secured and the cornerstone was laid in July, 1883. Rev. W. A. Saville was appointed pastor and he conducted services in the Jackson Opera House until the new church was completed. Dedication services were held December 7, 1884. The total amount subscribed and cash donated amounted to \$3,956.74, being sufficient to pay off every dollar of indebtedness. Over 500 people attended the service.

This church building was the home of Methodism until 1950. It was in 1945 that the members first considered either remodeling the building or constructing an entirely new structure when they found greatly needed repairs were necessary. It was decided to build a new church and razing of the old building began June 2, 1950. Men, women and children of the church worked side by side every hour they could spare from their daily avocations. When the razing was completed, volunteer workers kept busy as concrete was poured for the foundation of the new building. The first service in the new church was held July 13, 1952. A dream, plus sacrifice and hard work, became a reality and another chapter in the great accomplishments in Ellsworth's history was completed.

Baptist Church

The Baptist faith was represented by quite a number of people in early Ellsworth. An organizational meeting was held early in 1879 at which twenty-two people signed the agreement and with Rev. G. C. Davis of Salina acting as moderator, the new officers were installed and the Baptist

Church of Ellsworth came into existence. In October, the church called Rev. George Swainhart to be its pastor and he served for eleven months. The church was without a pastor until Rev. J. S. Henry came in 1884. Rev. W. R. Connaly came in 1885 and it was under his direction that the present church building was started. The church was dedicated August 21, 1887 by Rev. J. B. Tuttle, of Newton.

It is interesting to note that the Lot 6 of Block 1, Butler's Addition, the site of the church building, was a part of the original homestead filed by Samuel Butler, patent dated 1869, and signed by President U. S. Grant.

On January 19, 1928, J. B. Handy made a gift of the house at 414 Kansas Avenue to the trustees as a pastor's home.

The Baptist church and second Baptist church are the only two congregations that are now worshiping in their original church buildings.

Lutheran Churches

The Lutheran denomination was first represented in Ellsworth by the English Evangelical group, with Geogre Seitz as one of the leaders. Mr. Richard Erdtmann, a school teacher from Germany, and Carl Henke came to Ellsworth in 1871 and supplied the important needs of the German Lutheran group until organization in 1878, as the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church with services being held in the homes of the members. An Evangelical church, which had been built here in Ellsworth, and for a period of time rented by the Episcopal congregation, was used by a German Evangelical Lutheran group with Carl Nienke and Herman Huseman as officers.

The present Immanuel Lutheran congregation was organized in 1916 under the supervision of the Rev. A. Schmid who was pastor of St. Paul's located about eight miles northwest of Ellsworth. Eleven families, numbering thirty people, formed the congregation which immediately bought the old church building. This continued to be their home until 1937 when the present church was dedicated on the site of the old. In 1949 the pipe organ was installed and a set of chimes was purchased in 1951. The Rev. C. L. Stuebe, present pastor, has served since 1948 and during his pastorage a building fund was started and an addition to the church was made. Dedication services were held September 9, 1956. Today the congregation numbers 709 souls.

A.M. E. Church

Wayman Chapel, A.M.E. church, was organized about 1890 in Ellsworth and was named for the seventh bishop of the church. About 1894 this church was pastored by a Rev. S. W. Alexander, the building was located at the east end of South Main on the property of Sanford Smith. Later it was moved to Court Avenue across the street from the old court house. The old building had been used as a factory. Sanford Smith bought it and converted it into a church building at his own expense, to give church home to his family and his people.

The present property was purchased in 1890 from Sarah and Jerome Beebe at a cost of \$100.00. A church was built and services were held there until 1943.

Wayman Chapel A.M.E. by this time was so much in need of repairs that Fayette Bowen Brown asked the pastor, Rev. Lincoln

Johnson if she could undertake the job of rebuilding the church. Rev. Johnson brought the request before the church early in March of 1943, and the request was granted. On March 21, actual work began of tearing down the old church and parsonage on the corner of Main and Washington Sts. Richard Nelson was the contractor and builder. The new church was moved 25 feet from the old site to the center of the property. Mr. Nelson, with full charge of all the workmen, brought life to a new Wayman Chapel in 130 days. According to Mrs. Brown, "It was truly a work of art to see a man of our race with his tools and great skill take old and new material and mold it into something stately and beautiful."

During the days of building, Mrs. Brown labored continually, giving vocal concerts in many white churches. All money received was put into the building fund. Many donations were received through her efforts, and no money was solicited by direct action on her part or the membership. The total cost of the new church was about \$3,000.00. The dedication was held August 8, 1943 and was directed by Mrs. Brown.

It is truly a credit to Ellsworth to have such a dynamic person as Mrs. Brown living among us and in closing, the final line in the church record reads: "What the Fathers established, she rededicated."

Second Baptist Church

The following information was furnished by Mr. Ed Williams regarding the organization of the colored Baptist Church:

"Prior to 1873 there was no colored church in Ellsworth. In 1873 there came a colored minister, the Rev. Buchanan and his wife to

Ellsworth in a horse-drawn vehicle. They were very much impressed with the town and the people and decided to locate here with the possibility of organizing a church. At first it seemed almost impossible because there were so few colored people here at that time, and further, they had no lots on which to build a church. After discussing the matter, they decided to put forth an effort and when more people began to move in they became more enthusiastic and started to hold prayer meetings from house to house and later solicited help from Rev. Hunt, who was pastor of the white Baptist church to help get organized. So, with five charter members, all of whom are now deceased, the Second Baptist Church of Ellsworth was organized in 1873. As time went on and the membership increased, it became necessary to secure a lot and build a church. Fortunately, one of the families who were elderly people, by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blackburn, donated a lot to the organization on which to build a church, which is in its present location and is the same old building, with some improvements. The heirs of the deceased donors of the first lot had also given as a bequest to the church, the second lot of the estate."

Assembly of God Church
A CHURCH NOT BUILT WITH MONEY. No greater tribute can be paid to a group of people that established the newest church in Ellsworth. The writer asked the pastor, the Rev. Gerald D. Atchison, to offer a few remarks in regard to the establishing of the Assembly of God church in Ellsworth, and the building of the church edifice on Eighth Street, between Stanberry and Kansas.

Quoting in part, "Let us give the reason for its existence by stating what we believe. WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in his sinless life, in His miracles, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to His earth in power and glory to rule over the nations.

"God directed us to Ellsworth County in 1950. After efforts to rent an building in Ellsworth failed, a building was rented in Kanopolis. We opened a revival and a number of persons found Christ to be their own personal saviour. These formed the nucleus of the new church. No offerings were taken during the opening months to prove we were not after money.

Regular services were conducted in Kanopolis until August of 1951. Then it was decided to move the congregation to Ellsworth. We moved into the building on West First, now used as the telephone office. This building was used for eleven months and the building program was begun during this period. Having a gift of \$100.00, and securing a loan for two thousand dollars, we started to build in May, 1952. We took as our text: 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.' God has provided every need to date through free-will offerings and gifts. Not once have we gone to local business men or canvassed for money. Despite continued expenditures, the total indebtedness is only \$1,830.00 at the present time. We trust to complete the building debt-free.

"Also rented prior to occupying the new church, was the old post office building from July 1952 to

1955. On the first day of December 1955, the congregation moved into the front part of their church. At the present time we are working toward the completion of the sanctuary.

"When the church is completed it will provide seating space for two hundred in the sanctuary, a young people's chapel, Sunday School rooms, nursery, rest rooms and pastor's study."

ELLSWORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

A story of Ellsworth would not be complete without the mention of the Ellsworth Fire Department, an organization that, through the years from its beginning, has a unique record, and is recognized as one of the best drilled groups of volunteer fire fighters in the state.

Ellsworth's fire fighting organization dates back to 1877, with the formation of a volunteer bucket brigade. The town pump, long since gone, served the brigade in its battle to save property.

With the completion of the city water system in July, 1886, the Ellsworth fire department came into existence with R. K. Jeffries as Chief. W. E. Sheriff was elected the next year and served continually until his death, with the exception of 1891 when R. B. Krebs was elected for one year. Two fire companies were formed. Veterans of the companies still recall the days of the hose cart and the intense rivalry between the two when an alarm was sounded. After the completion of the storage tank, mains and windmill for pumping into the tank, and the engine to supply pressure was installed, the citizens of the town turned out to test the new equipment. One of the requirements was that the equipment would

force a stream of water one hundred feet into the air. The entire town, and delegations from surrounding communities came to witness the test. The demonstration was a success, and a stream was shot 120 feet in the air.

Throughout the years the volunteer fire department continued its standard of efficiency under its leader Chief Sheriff. The State Firemen's Association meeting and tournament was held in Ellsworth September 3, 4, 5, 1907, at which time the local companies won several contests. With the passing of time, modern equipment played its part and the hose cart was replaced with a new truck in August, 1917. The hose companies, however, were not dissolved until two years later.

The fiftieth annual meeting was held February 1936, at which time the following officials were given special recognition by the forty active members and a score of honorary members: W. E. Sheriff, Chief; James Watt, First Assistant; Joe Kalina, Second Assistant; George Allan, Treas.; and George Showman, Sec.

Chief W. E. Sheriff passed away in 1938, after over 50 years of service as Chief, and Joe Kailna was elected to take his place, with Kenneth Funk as First, and George Erdtmann, Sr., as Second Assistant. The construction of the City Hall in 1938 provided a new home for the department and its equipment. Joe Kalina resigned in 1942 and George Erdtmann, sr., became the third chief in the department's history, with Don Fishburn elected to First Assistant.

In 1944 the Department voted to carry an active list of 30 fire-fighters. In 1946 George Erdtmann resigned in favor of a younger man and Don Fishburn was

elected as chief with Alfred Johnson as first assistant. In 1953, Don Fishburn resigned his position and Woody Weinhold was elected chief.

The department received a "shot in the arm" in 1955 when the city purchased a new fire truck with the latest fire fighting equipment installed. The record of the Ellsworth fire fighters still rates with the best in the state and its officers are regular in their attendance at the training schools and state firemen's meetings.

Checking through the files in search of correct data the writer came upon a copy of a letter that had been sent by the department secretary to the city marshall, thanking him for the liquid refreshments that he had furnished for their annual meeting (this happened back in prohibition days) which only goes to prove that the Ellsworth Fire Department's efficiency, thoughtfulness and concern for the welfare of others goes beyond the fighting of fires.

INTERESTING SPOTS IN ELLSWORTH COUNTY

The writer has been requested to list a number of interesting places that can be visited in Ellsworth county. For those that have special interests, historical, scenic and mineralogical areas will be included.

Buffalo Tracks

Driving south of Ellsworth, on Highway K-14, several miles, and just south of the Ash Creek bridge is a rock ledge extending west and south in such a manner that buffalo grazing on the plain could not get to water except for the one crevice that is plainly seen next to the road, and just south of the bridge on the Boggs farm. (This is on the right hand side of

the road, as the traveler goes south). Buffalo coming down to water, cut deep tracks in the sandstone, which are visible and easy to photograph. The long grooves extending down to each cup were formed by the "dew claws" and definitely mark them as buffalo tracks. How many thousands or millions of buffalo used this trail, or how many centuries it was in use, is anyone's guess. It is one of the most striking spots in the state.

Mushroom Rocks

One of the best known rock formations in Kansas is found just south of Carneiro, in the Sneath pasture. Mushroom rocks, a sandstone formation, extend over an area of several acres and make interesting photography, with the creek and trees in the background. By driving through Carneiro, south and through the Sneath yard westward through the pasture, the rocks can easily be reached by automobile.

Palmer Cave

North of Carneiro several miles on the Allan farm is an area called Cave Hollow, consisting of numerous caves, springs, and a beautiful scenic valley. Palmer Cave, the largest in the area is on the north ridge, and large enough to walk through. Cave Hollow is a wonderful picnic area and a photographer's paradise.

North Shore of Lake Kanopolis

Three areas on the north shore of Lake Kanopolis are really scenic wonders. Horse Thief Canyon, with its three valleys fronting Sentinel Rock, has several unique rock formations, a high cliff and Indian pictographs. Indian Rock, a high promontory, visible from the south, can be reached by boat. It has many pictographs of unusual interest. The writer has 40

photographs in black and white and color, and each is a different view of the Indian writings. A fine collection can be started by just one visit to this area.

Just west of the Indian Rock is Red Rock Canyon, also reached by boat. Many unusual rock formations exist, and the sandstone turns a blood red following a rain. Red Rock Canyon has been featured on magazine covers and other publications. A color photographer can really have fun at this site.

Duke Alexis Rock

Two miles south of Ellsworth on Highway 14, on Oxide creek, is a large rock upon which are many names and initials. According to Mrs. Fred Gebhardt, a relative of hers, a Mr. Von Stein, who was stationed at Fort Harker in 1872, told the story that Duke Alexis visited this area and along with Wm. (Buffalo Bill) Cody carved their names in the rock. The writer has a photo in his possession showing the names, but vandals since have destroyed the writings and they no longer exist on the rock. It is located about one half mile west of the highway on the north side of Oxide Creek.

Old Coal Mines and Scenic Drives

The range of hills a few miles south of Wilson was the source of much coal mined in the early days. The shale and excavations are still visible, and the scenic hills afford one much pleasure with the camera.

Another picturesque drive is found south of Black Wolf. Passing through Black Wolf and continuing one mile south, one mile west and then on the road south, a very interesting shale formation and erosion can be seen in the valley to the east. The blue shale layers contain beautiful py-

rite (fool's gold) crystals.

Two other scenic drives are along the Elkhorn road, and the Oxide road. The creeks and hills are truly picturesque, and very beautiful, especially in the spring.

Remains of Fort Harker

A number of the stone barracks buildings, and officers' quarters of old Fort Harker, are still standing and in use as living quarters at Kanopolis. These are interesting to the traveler, in view of their historical background. In addition, the one-time Fort Harker jail or disciplinary barracks, is now a museum, maintained by the Kanopolis community, and open to the public are certain posted hours.

Lake Kanopolis

Much could be written about Lake Kanopolis. It is rapidly becoming the playground of Kansas. Boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing and picnicking, with ample facilities for each sport, are featured along with the scenic drives and camping areas.

Mineral Deposits

There are several spots in Ellsworth County noted for Indian relics, leaf fossils, shark's teeth, selenite (gypsum crystals) Starlite crystals, and pyrite crystals, but since these are all on private property, the writer is not qualified to divulge their locality.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF A FEW ELLSWORTH EARLY DAY CITIZENS

Ellsworth's history is characterized by the hardy pioneers who braved the dangers and hardships of the early West to establish a home for future generations.

Arthur Larkin

Arthur Larkin was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1832 and came to

America in 1848. He came to Ellsworth in 1867 where he built the first hotel. In 1868 he opened a general mercantile store and later a flour mill with John Getty. In 1872 he built the Grand Central Hotel which was one of the best in the Middle West. In 1878 he built a fine two-story building on Douglas (now the location of the Mills Furniture Store) which served as a general mercantile store. He also built the American House (now the Tucker Hotel). Mr. Larkin was a large property owner. His home, built in 1884 (now the Joe Jelinek residence south of the river) was one of the finest in the county. Mr. Larkin passed away in 1911.

W. F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody

Bill Cody was a very close friend of Arthur Larkin, and spent much time in Ellsworth. Following the Civil War he was attached to General Sherman's command negotiating peace treaties with the Indians. With the mission complete, he spent a year in Leavenworth and then came to Ellsworth where he worked for Arthur Larkin, hauling goods from Leavenworth for the Larkin stores. He also drove a stage coach in 1867 between Salina, Ellsworth and Hays.

At Ellsworth he met William Rose, a grading contractor for the Kansas Pacific Railroad and with him decided to lay out a town called Rome, near Hays. Cody's wife and baby came to Ellsworth by train and later joined her husband at Hays when the prospective city of Rome failed to materialize. Cody hired out to the railroad as a hunter, and for 18 months furnished buffalo meat for the construction crews. He killed over 4,000 buffalo during that time and thus acquired the name

"Buffalo Bill." Following this job, he took his old job of scout and guide between the frontier posts. He spent several years at Fort McPherson in Nebraska, and while there became a very close friend of J. B. (Texas Jack) Omohundro. In 1872 he was chief guide on the famous royal buffalo hunt staged for the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. Following a trip to New York, he returned to Fort McPherson and then with his old partners, Texas Jack Omohundro, Wild Bill Hickok, went east and formed a stage company which dramatized the Old West. Following several years on the stage Buffalo Bill organized a wild west show which was very popular in this country and abroad. Buffalo Bill Cody was born in 1846 and died in 1917.

Wild Bill Hickok In Ellsworth

Following the Civil War, Wild Bill Hickok was a scout and guide for army expeditions and for a time was stationed at Fort Harker. In 1867, Hickok lived in Ellsworth with an Indian woman named Annie who supported him by doing washing and odd jobs at the Grand Central. They lived in a small house that stood back of the Grand Central and near the jail. Hickok, then was a bar-room loafer and on the strength of his ability as a gunman, ran for sheriff and was defeated by E. W. Kingsbury. Hickok deserted his Indian woman and drifted away. She later married Ben Wilson and had one daughter, named Birdie. Wilson died and Annie lived at the poor house where she died in 1883. Her daughter was adopted by the Ben Spurgin family. Mrs. Tom Beatty recalls that when she was a little girl she made a visit to Indian Annie's home to watch her tell fortunes.

Wild Bill Hickok moved to Hays in 1868 where he was city marshal. In 1870 he wounded some soldiers and himself was wounded. General Sheridan ordered his arrest and Wild Bill came to Ellsworth where he remained hidden in the Harry Pestana home until he recovered from his wounds. Later Hickok became marshal at Abilene and built quite a reputation as a law man. For some time after that he was a member of a stage show with Cody, Omohundro, Judson and others. In 1874 he was in the Black Hills gold rush and in 1876 he was killed by Jack McCall in Deadwood, South Dakota.

George Seitz

George Seitz was a dealer in a general line of drugs, medicines, paints and oils. He opened the first drug store in Ellsworth in 1868 and the name Seitz has continued through to the present time. Mr. Seitz was born in Germany in 1847, came to America in 1865. He started business with his brother, O. Seitz, but in 1874 he bought out his brother and built a new store building on the corner of Douglas and Main. (Now the Helwick corner). The first store was located on South Main. In 1905 he built the corner drug at Douglas and First (now the Ellsworth Book Store) and in 1913 he retired. George Seitz married Emma Holzschuher in 1874, and they had two children, Hans and George.

George Huycke

Another name long associated with Ellsworth, and continued to the present time is here recognized. George Huycke and the Ellsworth Reporter have taken their place in Kansas history.

George Huycke was a government teamster in 1865, driving

mule teams to Santa Fe. In 1866 he camped at Fort Ellsworth and on his return from Santa Fe he remained at Fort Harker where he was postmaster for eight years.

In 1878 George Huycke and W. A. Gebhardt purchased the Ellsworth Reporter from John Montgomery and in 1890 he bought out the Gebhardt interest and continued operation until his death in 1914. The Ellsworth Reporter continues as the oldest operating newspaper in the western half of the state and has been in the Huycke family for 79 years.

E. W. Wellington

E. W. Wellington started his business career in Ellsworth. After several years of sheep raising in northeastern Ellsworth County, he came to Ellsworth in 1887 and started a real estate and loan business. He was very successful and in 1897 he borrowed money from friends in Boston and erected the well known Wellington block of business buildings on west Douglas avenue between First and Second streets. The venture proved a success and the loans were soon paid off. He also built several beautiful residences and in 1909 presented one to his son Waldo as a wedding present when he married May Jennings.

The Wellington block stands today, a monument to his success as a pioneer business man.

W. E. Sheriff

The Sheriff name will long be remembered in Ellsworth. W. E. Sheriff came to Ellsworth in 1876 and was employed by George Seitz in his drug store. In 1883 he purchased the Minnich drug store (located where the F. & M. Drug store now is) where he continued business until his death in 1918. His son Dale took over active management, selling out the busi-

ness which is now continued as F. & M. Drug.

W. E. Sheriff is best known for his efficiency as chief of the Ellsworth Fire Department. For over 50 years, the department ranked with the best in the state as a volunteer unit, and the two companies were in constant competition.

T. G. O'Donnell

Another business which is still operating under its original name is the T. G. O'Donnell Hardware Co., established by T. G. O'Donnell. Tom came to Ellsworth in 1884 and entered into business with W. C. Elred, dealing in farm implements and vehicles. In 1899 he bought out the Hoesman Hardware and established the present business. T. G. O'Donnell was highly respected in the community and made many contributions to the civic welfare of Ellsworth. Following his death, the O'Donnell Hardware business was taken over by his daughters, Eleanor and Marian, who have continued the business at the same location.

Henry W. Nunamaker

Another early day business still in existence is the Shade Jewelry store, originally established by Henry W. Nunamaker, Lloyd Shade's father-in-law. The Nunamakers came to Ellsworth in 1876 and established a jewelry store located where the Lundy Barber shop is now operating. Following a flood which destroyed the corner buildings on Second and Douglas, a new two-story building was erected on the corner and Mr. Nunamaker bought out the property in the early 1900's and continued in business until 1919 when Lloyd Shade took over as jeweler. Mr. Nunamaker passed away in 1929.











